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SUNDAY ▸ APRIL 26, 2026 ▸ VOL: 11 ▸ ISSUE: 281 ▸ PAGES 12 ▸ ₹2.00

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KEJRIWAL ANTI-WOMEN: MP POST AAP BREAK-UP

'Wore torn pants earlier, built ₹100 cr house as CM; AAP using Punjab as 'personal ATM', indulged in corruption and gundagardi'

NEW DELHI

A day after joining the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in a major setback to the Aam Aadmi Party, Rajya Sabha member Swati Maliwal on Saturday launched a sharp attack on party chief Arvind Kejriwal, accusing him of being "anti-women" and indulging in "corruption and gundagardi".

Speaking to reporters after formally joining the BJP, Maliwal said she took the decision voluntarily and expressed confidence in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I joined the BJP not under any compulsion, but because I believe in the leadership of PM Modi. I urge all those who want to do constructive politics to join the BJP," she said.

Announcing her exit from the AAP, Maliwal said she had been associated with Kejriwal since 2006 and supported him during various movements, including the RTI and Anna movements. However, she alleged that the party had abandoned its founding principles and that she later faced harassment and pressure within the organisation.

"I have left the AAP and joined the BJP. Since 2006, I have been working with Arvind Kejriwal and supported him during every agitation. However, Arvind Kejriwal had me beaten up by a goon in my own house. I was threatened when I raised my voice against it, and he put immense pressure on me to withdraw the FIR I lodged regarding this incident. I was denied any opportunity to speak in Parliament by the party for two years; this is very shameful. Arvind Kejriwal is anti-women," she said.

> At his residence, on his signal, I was brutally beaten and treated with utmost indecency. To protect his goon, he went to extreme lengths and rewarded him with high positions.
>
> —Swati Maliwal, AAP MP

Targeting AAP's governance in Punjab, she said, "Now, they have entered Punjab, and the state government is being remotely controlled, turning Punjab into their personal ATM. Sand mining and drug usage are at a peak in Punjab...FIRs are registered against all those leaders who raise their voices against them. Arvind Kejriwal is known for corruption and 'gundagardi."

Contrasting Kejriwal with Modi, Maliwal praised the Prime Minister and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for what she called decisive governance. "On the other hand, we have PM Modi, who is the most popular leader in the world. Be it during Operation Sindoor, when we killed enemies by entering their homes and ending Naxalism, or introducing the women's reservation bill in Parliament, PM Modi and Amit Shah have taken historic decisions for the development of the nation," she said.

In a post on X, Maliwal detailed her political journey and reiterated allegations that she was assaulted by a close aide of Kejriwal at his residence, claiming the leadership protected the accused. "At his residence, on his signal, I was brutally beaten and treated with utmost indecency. To protect his goon, he went to extreme lengths and rewarded him with high positions," she said.

Her remarks come amid a wider churn in the AAP, with Raghav Chadha, Sandeep Pathak and Ashok Mittal announcing their exit from the party along with several other Rajya Sabha MPs, signalling a significant political shift.

'No one can work with Kejriwal'

Maliwal further said the AAP had completely changed and is now known for "lies, corruption and hooliganism", adding that people are now leaving because of Kejriwal. "No good person can work with him for long. He says one thing and does another," she added, warning of more defections.

BLASTS KEJRIWAL

- No good person can work with Kejriwal.
- Indulged in corruption and gundagardi.
- Abandoned AAP founding principles.
- He got me beaten up by a goon.
- Rewarded the goon who thrashed me with high positions.
- Remotely controls Panjab govt.
- Turned Punjab into personal ATM.

EXTOLS MODI

- Most popular leader in the world.
- Popular for decisive governance.
- India growing rapidly under his leadership.
- India emerged strong globally due to his diplomacy.
- Bats for women's reservation bill.
- Taken historic decisions for nation's development
- Striving to end terrorism and Naxalism.

'We quit party not out of fear but disgust'

New Delhi: AAP and defector MPs on Saturday locked horns over the latter's decision to leave the party with Raghav Chadha alleging that they quit not out of fear but due to "growing sense of disappointment, disengagement and disgust" with the party even as Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann sought an appointment with the President to seek their recall from Rajya Sabha. Chadha said they have joined the BJP not out of fear but because there is "no space left to work in AAP" and "every true patriot who had nurtured the AAP with their blood and sweat with great hope has either already left the party or is in the process of leaving it".

AAP seeks disqualification of 7 MPs after BJP switch

NEW DELHI

With seven Aam Aadmi Party's Rajya Sabha members switching sides to the BJP on Friday, AAP leader Sanjay Singh said that the party will write to the Rajya Sabha chairman seeking their disqualification.

"Anti-defection law clearly states that any type of split or faction cannot happen in the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha. It does not carry any legal recognition, even if it's a two-thirds majority," he said.

The AAP leader remarked that neither the anti-defection law nor the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution recognises any kind of split, breakaway faction, or group in the Rajya Sabha or Lok Sabha, two-thirds majority notwithstanding.

"The seven MPs' act of joining the BJP is completely unconstitutional and illegal", he said.

Raghav Chadha, Sandeep Pathak, Ashok Mittal, Harbhajan Singh, Rajinder Gupta, Vikram Sahney and Swati Maliwal exited AAP and joined the BJP on Friday.

Would not have left if...: Hazare

NEW DELHI

Following Raghav Chadha's exit from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), social activist Anna Hazare said every individual has the right to take political decisions in a democracy and stressed that party leaderships must reflect on why leaders choose to leave.

"Everyone has the right to hold an opinion in a democracy. They (Chadha and others) must have faced some trouble, which is why they left," Hazare told reporters on Friday in Ahilyanagar district of Maharashtra.

The veteran activist went on to place the responsibility on the party leadership. "It is their (AAP leadership's) fault. Had that party followed the right way, they would not have left," he said. "Had the party gone in the right direction, they would not have quit the party," he added.

Hazare and Kejriwal were closely associated during the 2011 anti-corruption movement. Kejriwal worked alongside Hazare during protests and fasts held in Delhi.

US naval blockade 'banditry and piracy': Iran fumes

TEHRAN

Amid United States president saying the the naval blockade of Hormuz will continue, Iran on Saturday said it will respond if the blockade of Iranian ports continues. The Iranian military called the move by US "banditry" and "piracy."

"The invading US military continues blockading, banditry, and piracy in the region, they should be certain that they will face a response from Iran's powerful armed forces," read the statement released by state-run media outlet IRIB.

"We are ready and determined, while monitoring the behaviour and movements of enemies," it further read.

US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Friday said that American forces would maintain a blockade of the Strait of Hormuz "for as long as it takes."The naval blockade by US IS in response to Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a key waterway for global energy supplies.

> 'We are ready and determined, while monitoring the behaviour and movements of enemies'

Germany to despatch minesweeper for possible Hormuz mission

BERLIN

Germany is preparing to deploy a naval minesweeper to the Mediterranean in anticipation of a potential mission to secure the Strait of Hormuz, following the recent conflict involving the United States, Israel and Iran, a German defence ministry spokeswoman told AFP on Saturday. The Spokesperson also confirmed that the German navy vessel Fulda will be sent "in the coming days" as part of efforts to contribute to an international maritime security initiative. The move comes amid diplomatic efforts to end hostilities and restore stability in one of the world's most critical energy corridors.

QUICK READ

2 killed, 1 injured in Theni fireworks unit blast

THENI: Two workers were killed in a blast at the Sri Lakshmi Fireworks unit at Cumbum in Theni district on Saturday morning. The deceased were identified as S Deenadayalan (20) and S Suriya (24). A huge shed was razed to the ground following an explosion at 10.10 am, reportedly caused by the friction of chemicals handled by the workers. The sound of the explosion was reportedly heard up to 2 km from the unit. Deenadayalan and Suriya died on the spot, while K Ayyappan (32) sustained minor injuries. He has been taken to the Theni Government Hospital. The blast occurred when other workers were engaged in routine manufacturing-related processes at the unit.

Will file case against Shah for his 'violent remarks': Mamata

KOLKATA:: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday said she will file a "legal case" against Union Home Minister Amit Shah over his "violent remarks" ahead of second phase of the assembly elections on April 29. During a public address in Hoogly, she said, "We are going to file a legal case against Amit Shah for his violent remarks. As Home Minister, he cannot make such comments." Her remarks follow alleged comments by Shah about hanging miscreants upside down if they engage in political violence during the second day of the election. The Bengal CM asserted that the BJP's "forceful approach" would fail to resonate with Bengal's voters.

K Kavitha launches new political outfit 'TRS'

HYDERABAD

Seven months after her suspension from the BRS, Telangana Jagruthi president and Former CM K Chandrasekhar Rao's daughter, K Kavitha, on Saturday launched a political outfit, named 'Telangana Rashtra Sena' (TRS).

K Kavitha's departure from the party occurred after she accused her cousins and party leaders T Harish Rao and J Santosh Kumar of "tarnishing" her father and BRS president K Chandrasekhar Rao's image over the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project built during the BRS regime.

Since her suspension, she has been focusing on public issues under the banner of Telangana Jagruthi, a cultural organisation she heads.

The Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS), headed by her father, was originally named Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS). However, it was renamed as BRS in 2022.

'Iran foreign minister leaves without meeting US envoys'

ISLAMABAD

Iran's foreign minister left Pakistan on Saturday evening before any sign that US envoys had even arrived for indirect talks on the fragile ceasefire.

Abbas Araghchi was seen off at an airport, the officials said. He had met with Pakistani Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif about what he called Iran's red lines for negotiations, and said Tehran would engage with Pakistan's mediation efforts "until a result is achieved."

It was unclear when President Donald Trump's envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner were due to arrive in Islamabad. The White House declined to comment. An open-ended ceasefire has paused most fighting, but the economic fallout grows with global shipments of oil, liquefied natural gas, fertilizer and other supplies disrupted by the near-closure of the Hormuz.

Iranian officials have openly asked how they can trust the US after talks last year and early this year..

Panama Canal bids surge to $4 mn as Hormuz crisis disrupts trade

PANAMA

As the Hormuz crisis has mounted over the last 50 days, shipping companies have paid as much as $4 million in individual auctions to secure priority transit through the Panama Canal. The Panama Canal Authority says a highlights a massive shift in global trade routes as countries look to bypass the conflict zone in the West Asia. The Canal normally uses a flat-rate reservation system, ships without booking must eneter a bidding system to avoid waiting for long. The auction prices jumped from $135,000, to $4 mn for Neopanamax slots. The vessels that failed to secure a passage take the Cape of Good Hope route, which can add 20+ days to the voyage. Asian buyers have to increasingly source, crude US Gulf Coast via the Panama, the daily passage of ships have increased from highest 34 of 2024 to 40 in Macrh-April 2026.

APPEASEMENT OF FOREIGN POWERS

'Madhav 'exposed' Centre's dangerous priorities'

BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being no more than the US President Donald Trump's "puppet", claiming senior BJP leader Ram Madhav's recent remarks in the US had "exposed" the Modi government's "dangerous" priorities.

Taking to social media platform 'X', Siddaramaiah shared a video of the RSS leader where Madhav said that India agreed to stop buying oil from Iran and Russia and also agreed to higher tariffs imposed by the US.

He claimed that Madhav's remarks in the USA have "exposed the Modi government's dangerous priorities".

> He (Ram Madhav) openly admitted that, despite facing opposition criticism, India stopped importing oil from Iran and Russia, absorbed heavy tariffs, and made concessions that hurt India's economy and sovereignty - all to appease foreign powers.
>
> —Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

Madhav along with RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale are on a visit to the United States and attended an event at the Hudson Institute in Washington.

"He (Ram Madhav) openly admitted that, despite facing opposition criticism, India stopped importing oil from Iran and Russia, absorbed heavy tariffs, and made concessions that hurt India's economy and sovereignty - all to appease foreign powers," the chief minister said.

Siddaramaiah alleged that these are not diplomatic decisions - they are "brazen acts of self-surrender".

"As @RahulGandhi rightly said, this is the model of 'Rashtriya Surrender Sangh', where nationalism is a façade and servility is the reality," he claimed.

According to him, PM Modi's silence in the face of Donald Trump's mockery proved he was nothing more than Trump's "puppet".

"Unfortunately, the nation is paying the price for this compromised leadership," he added.

Madhav, however, later apologised saying what he said was "wrong as India did not agree to stop import of oil from Russia.

"What I said was wrong. India didn't agree to stopping import of oil from Russia anytime." "Also it vigorously protested 50 per cent tariff imposition. I was trying to make a limited counterpoint to the other panellist. But factually incorrect. My apologies," Madhav said in a post on X while sharing his video on April 24.

QUICK READ

6 arrested in brutal murder of real estate businessman

CH News, Bengaluru
In a major breakthrough, police in Vijayapura have arrested six accused in connection with the shocking murder of real estate businessman and former gram panchayat member Raju Khare. The gruesome killing, reportedly linked to a property dispute, had sent shockwaves across the district.
The incident took place near the industrial area on the outskirts of Vijayapura, close to Aliabad. According to police investigations, Raju Khare (48), a resident of Godandoddi village, was targeted while he was driving his vehicle.
The attackers initially rammed his car using a tipper truck, forcing it to stop. They then opened fire on the vehicle before assaulting him further by pelting stones, leading to his death on the spot. The brutal nature of the crime had created widespread panic and outrage among locals.

Bird Flu under control after intensive 10-day operation

CH News, Bengaluru
The outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza in Bengaluru's Hesaraghatta region has now been successfully contained, with authorities confirming that the situation is fully under control. The Karnataka Health Department issued an official statement highlighting the effectiveness of the rapid response and surveillance measures implemented over the past ten days.
The infection was first detected on April 14, 2026, at a state-run poultry training center in Mattur village, located in Hesaraghatta on the outskirts of Bengaluru. Following confirmation of the virus, immediate action was initiated by the Department of Health and Family Welfare Karnataka in coordination with the Animal Husbandry Department. Authorities acted swiftly after receiving a report from the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases in Bhopal, which confirmed the presence of the H5N1 virus.

CM Siddaramaiah visits Minister Sudhakar in hospital

As per sources, Sudhakar's health deteriorated following complications from a recent knee surgery

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Planning and Statistics Minister D Sudhakar is reported to be in critical condition and is currently undergoing treatment in the intensive care unit at KIMS Hospital.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah visited the hospital to assess the minister's health and consult with doctors.

According to medical sources, Sudhakar's health deteriorated following complications from a recent knee surgery.

He reportedly developed a severe lung infection after the procedure, which worsened over time. Initially, he was being treated at Manipal Hospital, but as his condition declined further, he was shifted to KIMS Hospital in Electronic City four days ago for advanced care.

Doctors treating the minister have indicated that the lung infection has become severe, making his condition critical. He is currently under constant monitoring in the intensive care unit, where a team of specialists is providing round-the-clock treatment. Hospital authorities have described his condition as serious and concerning, though they continue to make every effort to stabilize him.

During his visit, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah held detailed discussions with the medical team overseeing Sudhakar's treatment. He sought updates on the minister's health progress and the course of treatment being administered. After meeting the doctors, the Chief Minister also interacted with Sudhakar's family members, offering them reassurance and emotional support during this difficult time.

Several prominent political leaders accompanied the Chief Minister during the visit, including Zameer Ahmed Khan and former minister Goolihatti Shekhar. In light of the high-profile visits, tight security arrangements were put in place around the hospital premises to manage the situation.

Meanwhile, supporters and well-wishers of Minister Sudhakar have been expressing concern over his health and are praying for his speedy recovery. Messages of support have been pouring in from across the state, reflecting the widespread concern for the ailing minister.

Govt issues heatwave advisory as mercury rises across state

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

With temperatures steadily rising across the state, the RDPR Dept issued a set of guidelines to help citizens protect themselves from the intense summer heat

The advisory comes in response to forecasts of a severe heatwave in the coming weeks. According to the India Meteorological Department, temperatures are expected to climb significantly this season, increasing the risk of heat-related illnesses. In light of this, the Karnataka government has urged the public to take precautionary measures and follow simple guidelines to stay safe.

One of the key recommendations is to avoid stepping out during peak heat hours, especially between 12 pm and 3 pm, when the sun's intensity is at its highest. People are advised to remain indoors during this period unless absolutely necessary.

Staying hydrated is another crucial aspect emphasized in the advisory. Citizens are encouraged to drink water regularly, even if they do not feel thirsty, and to carry water bottles while traveling. Wearing light, loose-fitting cotton clothing is also recommended to help regulate body temperature. Additionally, the use of umbrellas, hats, and sunglasses can provide protection from direct sunlight.

The department has also highlighted the importance of a healthy diet during the summer. Consuming refreshing drinks such as tender coconut water, fruit juices, buttermilk, and Oral Rehydration Solution can help maintain hydration levels. Fresh fruits, vegetables, and leafy greens should be included in daily meals to support overall health.

At the same time, people are advised to limit the intake of beverages like coffee, tea, alcohol, and sugary soft drinks, as these can contribute to dehydration. Reducing strenuous physical activities during hot weather is also essential to prevent fatigue and heat exhaustion.

To maintain a cool indoor environment, residents are encouraged to keep windows open for proper ventilation and use curtains to block direct sunlight. Special care should be taken for vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant women, and the elderly. The advisory also warns against leaving children or pets inside parked vehicles, as temperatures inside can rise rapidly.

Lastly, individuals are urged to monitor their health closely. Symptoms such as dizziness, nausea, excessive sweating, or muscle cramps should not be ignored. Immediate rest and medical consultation are recommended if such signs appear.

The department concluded its advisory with a strong message urging citizens to remain cautious and prioritize their health during the ongoing heatwave.

Kulkarni moves HC challenging lifer in Gowda murder case

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni has approached the Karnataka High Court challenging the life imprisonment sentence awarded to him in connection with the murder of Yogish Gowda. The appeal marks a significant legal development following the recent verdict by a special court in Bengaluru. The case dates back to 2016, when Yogish Gowda, a Zilla Panchayat member from Dharwad, was murdered in a shocking incident that drew widespread attention across Karnataka. After years of investigation and trial, the Special Court for MPs/MLAs Bengaluru recently delivered its judgment, convicting Vinay Kulkarni along with 15 other accused. The court sentenced all 16 individuals to life imprisonment and also imposed fines.

Row erupts over actor's remark on land allocation for Rajkumar memorial

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A fresh controversy has erupted in Karnataka after actor and social activist Chetan Ahimsa shared a social media post questioning land allocation for the memorial of legendary actor Dr. Rajkumar.

The remarks, made on the occasion of Rajkumar's birth anniversary, have triggered strong backlash from fans, leading to a police complaint.

The issue began when Chetan Ahimsa took to his official social media accounts, including Facebook and X, to criticize the government's decision to allocate around 2.5 acres of land for the memorial complex of Dr. Rajkumar at the Kanteerava Studio premises in Bengaluru. While acknowledging Rajkumar as a artist, Chetan questioned whether allocating such a large piece of land in the heart of the city for a single actor's memorial was justified.

In his post, Chetan emphasized that land has become a critical and sensitive issue in 21st-century India. He argued that governments must consider long-term public interest and future needs before making such allocations. He further criticized what he described as decisions influenced by vote bank politics and opportunism, stating that public resources should not be used for political gains.

The comments did not go down well with fans of Dr. Rajkumar, who regard the late actor as a cultural icon and a symbol of Kannada pride. On a day meant to celebrate his legacy, many fans expressed anger over what they perceived as disrespectful remarks. The situation escalated quickly, with several supporters filing a formal complaint against Chetan at the Basaveshwar Nagar Police Station.

Protests and strong reactions were reported from various parts of Bengaluru, with fans demanding an apology from the actor. Social media platforms also saw heated debates, with opinions sharply divided between those supporting Chetan's right to question public policy and those condemning his statements as insensitive.

The controversy highlights the delicate balance between freedom of expression and public sentiment, especially when it involves revered cultural figures like Dr. Rajkumar. Authorities are expected to review the complaint and take appropriate action based on the findings.

Delegation thanks CM for historic internal quota

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A delegation led by Excise Minister RB Timmapur met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru to express gratitude for implementing internal reservation, a long-pending demand of several communities.

The move has been described as a historic decision aimed at ensuring equitable distribution of benefits.

The delegation, comprising hundreds of leaders from Dalit Left communities, met the Chief Minister at his official residence, Kaveri Residence. During the meeting, members of the group conveyed their appreciation by offering sweets and thanking the Chief Minister for fulfilling a demand that had remained unresolved for decades.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister R. B. Timmapur highlighted that the struggle for internal reservation had spanned nearly 30 to 40 years. He noted that several previous governments and chief ministers had been unable to address the issue effectively. According to him, the current administration under Siddaramaiah succeeded by building consensus across communities and within the cabinet.

Timmapur stated that the Chief Minister took an inclusive approach, ensuring that all sections of society were consulted before arriving at a decision. He also emphasized that the cabinet approved the measure unanimously, reflecting a collective commitment to social justice and equitable representation.

Leaders from the delegation expressed that the decision would significantly benefit their communities by ensuring fair access to opportunities in education and employment. They described the move as a milestone that would improve socio-economic conditions and provide long-term empowerment.

The minister further remarked that the community would remember Siddaramaiah's contribution for years to come and remain grateful for addressing their long-standing concerns.

He added that the decision has instilled a sense of trust and recognition among marginalized groups who have historically sought equitable treatment.

'Soul of Bengaluru' sculpture unveiled at KIA

BENGALURU

With the aim of showcasing the culture and creativity of Bengaluru, which has gained a global reputation as the Garden City and Silicon City, a beautiful and huge artistic sculpture named 'Soul of Bengaluru' has been unveiled at Kempegowda International Airport.

This artwork has been installed in front of Terminal-2 in collaboration with Biocon Foundation and Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL). This sculpture, conceived by renowned Spanish artist Jaume Plensa, is catching the eye of passengers.

The artwork was officially unveiled by Juan Antonio March Pujol, Ambassador of Spain to India. The event was attended by State Rural Development, IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge, Biocon Group Chairperson Kiran Majumdar-Shaw, BIAL Managing Director and CEO Hari Marar and the artist Jaume Plensa.

What is special about this artwork?

Made of painted stainless steel, this artwork measures 500 x 319 x 375 cm. This artwork represents how Bengaluru is a melting pot of diverse cultures, innovation and creativity. Its artist Jaume Plensa has gained international recognition for his public artworks in major cities around the world including Chicago, New York, London, Tokyo, Barcelona, Madrid.

Kiran Majumdar-Shaw, chairperson, Biocon Group, said, "Development of a city is not just about investing in infrastructure. Biocon Foundation believes that investing in art and culture is also essential."

Yediyurappa has a permanent place in hearts of people: BYV

BENGALURU

Yediyurappa has done pro-people and development work in the state that no chief minister could do, and that is why even though he does not have any political status now, the people of the country have given him a permanent place in their hearts, said MLA and state BJP president BY Vijayendra.

Speaking after inaugurating the 48-day Mandala Puja and religious ceremony of the new temple of Sri Mahaganapati, Sri Panchamukhi Shivalingeshwara and Sri Nandi Basaveshwara in the historic Elekodigehalli on Magadi Road in the city, he said that the people of the country have a lot of respect for their revered father Yediyurappa. It is truly a matter of pride to hear the words of the people. He said that the property that our father has given us is the love and respect of the people of the country.

No matter where we go in the state, whether it is in any district, taluk or village, the elders, mothers and young friends welcome us with great love. The reason for this is that more than Vijayendra Shikaripura MLA or BJP state president, they welcome us with great joy and respect that our son Yediyurappa has come. The head of the Matha, the Swamiji, is also giving us the same respect and blessings that he gave to his father, and this is the result of the good work done by Yediyurappa," he said.

With the blessings of the people of the state, Yediyurappa has done a lot of good work for the farmers, the poor and the downtrodden as the CM four times, he said.

KANTARA MIMICRY ROW

Ranveer issues apology, HC dismisses case

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh has tendered an unconditional apology before the Karnataka High Court over a controversy linked to the film Kantara Chapter 1.

The court accepted his apology and disposed of his plea seeking the quashing of an FIR registered against him, bringing a significant development in the widely discussed issue.

The controversy arose after allegations surfaced that Ranveer Singh made an objectionable gesture while referring to the Chamundi character associated with the cultural and spiritual themes portrayed in Kantara Chapter 1.

The remarks triggered strong reactions, particularly among communities that deeply revere regional traditions and deities. Following public outrage, a formal complaint was filed, leading to the registration of an FIR against the actor.

In response, Ranveer Singh approached the Karnataka High Court seeking relief. During the hearing, his legal team submitted an affidavit in which the actor issued an unconditional apology. In the document, he acknowledged that his actions had hurt the sentiments of devotees and communities connected to the traditions depicted in the film. He expressed deep regret and assured that there was no intention to disrespect cultural or religious beliefs.

The apology was presented before the court by senior advocate Sajan Poovayya, who also informed the bench that the actor intends to visit Chamundi Hills to offer his respects. The counsel requested the court to provide a timeline for this visit as part of the actor's gesture of reconciliation.

Taking note of the apology, the High Court accepted the submission and disposed of the petition. The bench observed that the actor's unconditional apology addressed the concerns raised in the complaint. It also indicated that further directions regarding the proposed visit to Chamundi Hills would be issued separately.

The controversy, which had been widely debated on social media, also involved sentiments linked to revered figures such as Panjurli Daiva. Many users had called for accountability, while others emphasized the importance of respecting artistic freedom alongside cultural sensitivity.

With the court accepting the apology, the matter appears to have reached a resolution. The development has been seen as a reminder of the importance of exercising caution and respect when addressing culturally significant subjects, especially in a diverse society like India.

QUICK READ

Shaheen group offers free PUC seats to toppers

Bidar

Announcing a major educational initiative in Bidar, Dr Abdul Khadeer, Chairman of Shaheen Group of Institutions, said 100 meritorious students will receive free PUC education across Karnataka. Students scoring above 95% in SSLC exams are eligible, with two-year tuition fully waived. Of the seats, 25 are reserved for Kalyana Karnataka region, including Bidar, with preference to rural government school students, Kannada-medium learners, and those who have lost a parent or are differently abled. Dr Khadeer said the initiative aims to support economically disadvantaged but talented students. Eligible candidates can contact Shaheen Group PU colleges for details and admission procedures. He emphasized inclusive access and long-term educational empowerment goals.

Kalaburagi invites applications for 1st PUC admissions

Kalaburagi

The Department of Minority Welfare in Kalaburagi has invited online applications for admission to First PUC for the academic year 2026–27. According to the District Officer, eligible students can apply for seats in minority residential pre-university colleges functioning under the state syllabus. These include Integrated Morarji Desai Residential Schools and Pre-University Colleges, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Residential Schools and Pre-University Colleges, and Maulana Azad Pre-University Colleges across the district. The initiative aims to provide quality residential education opportunities for eligible students .

Three arrested in online loan fraud case

Raichur

Cyber Crime Police in Raichur have arrested three individuals for allegedly running an online loan fraud racket. The accused—Mahesh Chillal (27), Veeresh (24), and Prabhu (34)—were reportedly operating from Lakshana Layout behind the Government Polytechnic College in the city. Police said the group lured victims by promising quick online loans and collected sensitive documents like Aadhaar cards and bank passbooks. They allegedly used multiple SIM cards and QR codes to divert money into various accounts without disbursing any loans. A case was registered on April 21 under the IT Act and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita sections. Following investigation.

Kalaburagi DC inspects civic housing and infrastructure projects

Kalaburagi DC inspected the road and waste management projects, directing officials to speed up civic infrastructure works

KALABURAGI

District Collector B. Fouziah Taranum conducted an inspection of ongoing civic infrastructure and housing projects in Kalaburagi, reviewing progress and issuing directions to ensure timely completion of works aimed at improving urban facilities.

The Collector inspected the multi-storey residential housing project for civic workers being developed under the Gruha Bhagya scheme at Filter Bed area on Taj Sultanpur Road. The project, estimated at 23 crore, is intended to provide housing facilities for around 220 civic workers. During the visit, she instructed contractors to complete construction within the stipulated timeframe and expedite electrification works by initiating tender processes without delay.

Officials were also directed to ensure quality standards in construction and maintain project timelines to avoid delays in allotment to beneficiaries. The housing initiative is expected to significantly improve living conditions for municipal staff engaged in essential urban services.

Later, near Kharge Petrol Pump, the Collector reviewed road development works and instructed officials to complete service road construction to enable smooth traffic movement, particularly facilitating free left turns from Annapurna Cross. She also ordered the relocation of electric poles obstructing traffic flow and emphasized the need to develop pedestrian pathways and two-wheeler parking facilities for public convenience.In a separate inspection at Khanadal village, she visited the Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste management plant being developed at a cost of around 4 crore. The facility is designed to scientifically process and recycle construction debris, promoting sustainable waste management practices.Municipal Commissioner Avinash Shinde, along with senior engineers and other officials, accompanied the inspection. The Collector stressed timely execution and coordinated efforts among departments to ensure efficient delivery of urban infrastructure projects.

Reservation delay triggers BJP Mahila Morcha agitation

VIJAYAPURA

Activists of the BJP Mahila Morcha staged a protest in Vijayapura against the alleged delay in implementing the Nari Shakti Vandana Act and the women's reservation provisions, accusing Congress and its allies of obstructing the process.The protest began near Shri Siddeswar Temple, where a large group of women activists gathered and raised slogans against the Congress leadership. The demonstrators then carried out a foot march towards Gandhi Circle, continuing their protest and demanding immediate action on women's reservation.Addressing the gathering, the protesters alleged that while Congress

Raichur installs shade screens at traffic signals for commuters

RAICHUR

Acting on a media report and growing public concern over rising temperatures, the municipal authorities in Raichur have begun installing shade screens at major traffic signal junctions to provide relief to commuters and traffic police personnel exposed to intense summer heat.

The initiative comes after temperatures in the region steadily increased over the past weeks, making it difficult for pedestrians, two-wheeler riders, and signal duty staff to endure long waiting times at busy intersections. The decision was reportedly influenced by a local media report highlighting the hardship faced by road users during peak afternoon hours.

As part of the measure, shade-providing fabric screens and temporary canopy structures are being installed at key traffic signal points across the city. Officials stated that the project aims to reduce direct sun exposure and improve comfort for commuters during signal stops.

Raichur municipal body installs shade screens at traffic signals to protect commuters and traffic police from intense summer heat after public concern and media report.

Municipal engineers have been instructed to identify additional high-traffic junctions where similar arrangements can be implemented. The civic body is also exploring the possibility of using heat-resistant and durable materials to ensure long-term utility of the installations.Traffic police personnel, who are required to manage vehicle movement at intersections during peak hours, are expected to benefit significantly from the initiative. Authorities noted that the extreme heat conditions often pose health risks, including dehydration and fatigue.

Local residents have welcomed the move, stating that even small interventions such as shade structures can make a noticeable difference in daily commuting conditions during summer months.Officials added that further heat-mitigation measures may be introduced if temperature levels continue to rise, including drinking water facilities and additional roadside shelters at busy junctions across the city.

Talawara community in Jevargi protested demanding ST certificates and suspension of tahsildar over alleged administrative delay

Talawara community demands suspension of Jevargi tehsildar

JEVARGI

A strong protest was raised in Jevargi taluk of Kalaburagi district over the alleged delay in issuing Scheduled Tribe (ST) certificates to members of the Talawara community, with protesters demanding suspension of the concerned tahsildar.

The agitation highlighted that several eligible families have been waiting for official certification despite repeated applications and visits to the revenue office. Protesters alleged that the delay has affected access to government welfare schemes, education reservations, and employment benefits meant for the community.

They further stated that the issue has persisted for months, causing hardship and uncertainty among Talawara families who depend on ST certification for securing legal entitlements and government support.

Community leaders and activists urged immediate action from district authorities and called for accountability, insisting that administrative negligence should not deprive eligible citizens of their constitutional rights.

Protesters warned that if the issue continues unresolved, they would intensify their agitation in the coming days and escalate the matter to higher government officials.

Officials are yet to issue a detailed response regarding the allegations, while local revenue department sources indicated that verification of documents is underway. They said that delays often occur due to pending records and field-level inspections, but assured that eligible applicants will be issued certificates after due process.

Meanwhile, community representatives reiterated that the Talawara community has been historically marginalized and requires timely administrative support to ensure equal access to welfare benefits and constitutional safeguards.

Authorities have been urged to resolve the issue quickly to prevent further protests and restore public confidence in the system at the earliest.

Basavakalyan Rathotsava mishap claims elderly man's life

BIDAR

A 65-year-old man succumbed to injuries after a tragic accident during the Basaveshwara Rathotsava in Basavakalyan, officials said. The incident occurred during the annual temple chariot procession held at Sri Basaveshwara Temple.

The deceased has been identified as Dhanraj, a resident of Muchalamb village in Hulsur taluk. According to sources, the accident took place at the Rath Maidan when a heavy crowd gathered around the chariot procession, leading to a stampede-like situation.During the chaos, Dhanraj reportedly came under the wheels of the temple chariot, sustaining severe injuries, including the loss of both legs. Panic spread in the area as devotees attempted to move away from the overcrowded procession site.

Two other individuals, identified as Rishabh and Bhimashankar, also suffered serious injuries in the same incident. All the injured were immediately shifted to a hospital in Kalaburagi for emergency treatment.

Despite medical efforts, Dhanraj succumbed to his injuries, hospital sources confirmed. His death has cast a shadow over the religious festivities in the region, with devotees expressing grief over the tragic accident.Authorities are expected to review crowd management arrangements and safety measures during large religious gatherings. Further details regarding the incident and possible lapses are awaited. The Basaveshwara Rathotsava is a significant annual event that attracts large numbers of devotees from surrounding areas, and the mishap has raised concerns about safety protocols during such mass gatherings.

Bidar honours Dr Rajkumar at 'Rajrasa' musical event

BIDAR

A cultural programme titled "Rajrasa" was organised in Bidar to mark the 97th birth anniversary of legendary actor Dr Rajkumar, celebrating his contribution to cinema, music, and society.The event was inaugurated by Additional Deputy Commissioner Shivanand Karale, who described Dr Rajkumar as a multi-faceted personality—an acclaimed actor, accomplished singer, and respected social contributor. The programme was jointly organised by the district administration, Department of Information and Public Relations, and Karnataka Sahitya Sangha.Karale highlighted Rajkumar's significant role in the Gokak agitation, stating that his support strengthened the movement for the preservation of the Kannada language. He also noted that Rajkumar

gained national recognition in music and received several prestigious awards during his lifetime.Delivering a special lecture, Jagannath Hebbale said Dr Rajkumar was not only a legendary actor known for mythological and social films but also a reformer who contributed to societal upliftment. He added that his efforts in protecting Kannada language and culture remain exemplary.Dr Basavaraj Ballur of Karnataka Pre-University College said Rajkumar used cinema as a medium to address social inequalities and inspire positive change. He also emphasized his active participation in cultural movements such as the Gokak agitation, describing his simplicity, values, and social responsibility as an inspiration for the younger generation.The programme witnessed participation from officials and cultural personalities including Manjunath Sullolli, Malappa Adasare, Vijaykumar Sonare, Tanveer Itbal, Vijayakrishna Solapur, Ashish Hajjare, and Geetabai.

BJP Mahila Morcha protests Congress over reservation bill

RAICHUR

Members of the BJP Mahila Morcha staged a protest in Raichur against the Congress party, accusing it of opposing the women's reservation bill and delaying its implementation.The protestors gathered in the city and raised slogans condemning what they described as the Congress party's contradictory stand on women's empowerment. They alleged that while the party publicly supports gender equality, its actions in the legislative process do not reflect the same commitment.Speaking during the demonstration, women leaders said that the opposition to the reservation bill in Parliament has delayed meaningful political representation for women. They demanded that the legislation be implemented without further delay to ensure adequate participation of women in decision-making bodies.

WOMEN CONGRESS PROTEST

Women's Cong demands immediate implementation of reservation act

BIDAR

A symbolic protest was staged at Bidar at Ambedkar Circle by the District Women's Congress and State Women's Congress, demanding immediate implementation of the Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam–2023 without delay or confusion.

Addressing the gathering, Karnataka Pradesh Mahila Congress Vice-President Rajashree Swami alleged that the Central Government and BJP leaders were deliberately creating confusion regarding the implementation of the Act. She said women's reservation has been discussed for decades and stressed that it is essential for ensuring equal political participation.

She expressed concern that despite long-standing demands for reservation in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, full implementation has not yet been achieved.

Swami noted that as per provisions of the Act, women's reservation is expected after the 2026 Census and may come into effect in the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.

However, she criticised the Centre for not providing clarity to opposition parties and the media even after recent parliamentary proceedings.

She also raised concerns over reports of increasing Lok Sabha constituencies from 543 to 850, stating it could disadvantage southern states while increasing representation for more populous northern states.

Protesters demanded immediate enforcement of 33% women's reservation within the existing 543 Lok Sabha constituencies.

Former Zilla Panchayat President Geeta Chidri said the Congress party has consistently supported women's empowerment and backed the 2023 Bill.

District Women's Congress President Pooja George, along with leaders Vidya Tugave, Vijayalakshmi, Shaheen Begum, Sangeeta Karabari, and several party workers, participated in the protest, calling for swift implementation of the reservation law.

QUICK READ

Minor injured in attack by miscreants

SHIVAMOGGA

A minor was seriously injured after being attacked by a group of unidentified miscreants in Wadi-e-Huda area of Shivamogga city on Thursday night. Police said the incident took place around 10 pm on April 24 when the attackers allegedly used weapons such as sticks and other sharp objects. Locals rushed the injured boy to a nearby hospital immediately after the attack. He is currently undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Shivamogga, and doctors said his condition remains serious. A case has been registered at Tunga Nagar Police Station, and police have begun investigation to identify and trace the accused involved in the assault

Heatwave relief hats distributed to vendors

HUNSUR

As the heatwave intensifies across Karnataka, Hunsur taluk is witnessing rising temperatures that are causing hardship to street vendors and the public. Health officials have also warned of increased risk of heat-related illnesses due to extreme conditions.
To support roadside vendors working under the scorching sun, former MLA H. P. Manjunath donated hats for more than 2,000 people to help protect them from heat exposure.

DC urges precautions against lightning threat

DC Shilpa Sharma urged lightning safety, advising alerts, avoiding open areas, and following NDMA monsoon guidelines

BIDAR

District Collector Shilpa Sharma has urged the public to strictly follow safety guidelines issued by the National Disaster Management Authority to reduce risks from lightning during pre-monsoon and monsoon seasons. She said thunderstorms are common in the district, especially in the afternoon and evening hours, when the chances of lightning strikes are higher.

In an official statement, she advised people to stay alert and check weather forecasts before stepping out of their homes. She also asked residents to pay attention to mobile alerts issued through the Common Alerting Protocol system, which provides real-time warnings about severe weather conditions.The DC cautioned people against staying in unsafe places during thunderstorms. She said metal-roofed houses are not safe shelters and advised taking refuge in strong permanent buildings. People were also warned to avoid open areas such as hills, high ground, and riverbanks, as well as to stay away from lakes and other water bodies during lightning activity.She further instructed citizens to avoid standing near electric poles, mobile towers, railway tracks,

and wind turbine structures, as these can attract lightning. In case of travel during sudden weather changes, she advised stopping vehicles and remaining inside for safety. She also said people in groups should maintain distance from each other during lightning conditions.If no shelter is available outdoors, she recommended sitting with both feet together, bending forward and covering ears to reduce risk. Taking shelter under trees was strongly discouraged.The Collector also highlighted the usefulness of the "Sidilu App," developed by the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Centre, which provides location-based alerts on lightning and rain. She appealed to the public to use the app and follow all precautionary measures to prevent loss of life and property due to lightning strikes in the district.

Mandya clerics express anger at Cong government

MANDYA

Muslim clerics in Mandya have expressed strong dissatisfaction with the Congress government, saying the community feels ignored despite supporting the party in large numbers during elections. They said decisions such as the removal of political secretary Nazir Ahmed and council member Abdul Jabbar have created anger among community members.

At a press meet in Jamia Masjid, cleric Abdul Qadeer warned that the community has political alternatives and should not be taken for granted. He said the Muslim community played a key role in bringing Congress to power and knows its strength in future elections. They also objected to what they described as unfair treatment compared to leaders from other communities in political matters.

The clerics said they are not blackmailing but raising legitimate demands for representation and respect within the

Clerics warned Congress over representation issues, demanded reinstatement of leaders, and cautioned of political consequences if concerns remain unaddressed

political system. They urged the Congress leadership to reconsider recent decisions and warned that continued dissatisfaction could impact future elections. We know we helped bring you to power, and we also know how to express our political strength if needed, one cleric said. They demanded reinstatement of removed leaders and said the issue reflects growing concerns within the community. The meeting concluded with a call for justice, fair treatment, and meaningful political dialogue with community representatives. Leaders said they will continue to press for their demands in a democratic manner and expect the government to address concerns without delay. However, they warned that ignoring their voice could deepen dissatisfaction ahead of upcoming elections in Karnataka. Community leaders reiterated that their demand is for rights and fair political participation, not confrontation, and called for immediate corrective steps from Congress leadership.

NWKRTC offers special buses for summer

HUBBALLI

During the summer vacation season, the North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) has announced that buses can be hired for various programs and trips. This service is aimed at helping people who attend weddings, housewarming events, educational tours, and other ceremonies.

Officials said the service is in high demand during peak summer travel time due to increased functions and gatherings. Hubballi division controller H Ramanagara stated that five units under the division operate 503 buses covering 1.80 lakh kilometres daily. On average, the system serves about 1.10 lakh women and 70,000 men, transporting nearly 1.80 lakh passengers every day. Different types of buses including express, Rajahamsa, sleeper, multi-axle and Volvo AC buses are available for rent. These buses are provided for weddings, tours, school and college trips, meetings and other events within and outside the state.

Mahila Morcha demanded immediate women's reservation, urging equal political participation and stronger representation in decision-making roles

BJP Mahila Morcha protests for women's reservation

YADGIR

BJP Mahila Morcha and Nari Shakti Forum staged a protest in Yadgir demanding immediate implementation of the Women's Reservation Bill, also known as the Nari Shakti Vandana Act. The protesters blocked the road at Lal Bahadur Shastri Circle and raised slogans against the Congress and its allies, accusing them of delaying the bill's implementation.The women leaders said the bill passed by the Central Government is crucial for ensuring equal political representation for women in Parliament and State Assemblies. They expressed concern that the delay in enforcing the law is affecting women's rights and slowing down their political empowerment.

Speaking during the protest, Mahila Morcha office bearers said that greater participation of women in politics is essential for the country's overall development. They urged all political parties to stop taking a dual stand on the issue and to clearly support women's reservation without delay. They further added that women must get fair opportunities in decision-making positions and that reservation is a necessary step to achieve equality in political representation. According to them, the implementation of the bill will strengthen democracy and encourage more women to participate in public life.Several senior leaders and district office bearers of the BJP Mahila Morcha took part in the protest.

Dasamsam welcomes state's SC internal quota decision

HUNSUR

The Dasamsam State Organisation has welcomed the Karnataka government's decision on internal reservation among Scheduled Castes, calling it a long-awaited step towards social justice. State coordinator Ningraj Malladi expressed appreciation for the move taken by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his cabinet.

Speaking to reporters, Malladi said the organisation has been fighting for internal reservation among Scheduled Castes for nearly four decades. He said the recent decision would benefit all Dalit sub-groups and bring fairness in distribution of opportunities.

According to him, the government's formula allocating shares among different SC communities has addressed long-standing concerns regarding imbalance in representation.

He noted that earlier disputes over reservation patterns had created tensions among communities, leading to social divisions and misunderstandings.

He also highlighted the difficulties faced by nomadic and semi-nomadic communities, stating that many people from these groups still lack stable housing and government employment opportunities. He said the new decision provides hope for greater inclusion of such marginalised sections.

Malladi added that the government, after reviewing various concerns, has taken what he described as a balanced approach to internal reservation. He said the decision would help reduce conflicts among sub-castes and promote unity within the Scheduled Castes.

He further stated that the move aligns with the principles of social justice advocated by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and supports equal opportunity for all communities. The organisation expressed confidence.

RAMACHANDRA BAIKAMPADY REMEMBERED FOR CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

MANGALURU

Cultural organiser, playwright and political figure Ramachandra Baikampady was remembered for his contributions to the coastal cultural landscape at a condolence meeting held at Tulu Bhavan on Saturday.

Speaking at the event, senior scholar Prabhakara Joshi said Baikampady had a deep commitment to cultural development. He noted that although Baikampady was active in politics, he did not achieve significant political success, but his role in strengthening the region's cultural ecosystem remained notable.

The programme was organised to pay tribute to Baikampady, a former member of the Karnataka Tulu Sahitya Academy and a recipient of its annual honorary award.

Senior theatre director Vijay Kumar Kodialbail said Baikampady had influenced many individuals in the theatre field. Theatre director Jagan Pawar Bekal recalled his role in bringing together artists in Mangaluru and leading cultural initiatives through organisations.Harish Shetty,

president of the Jayakrishna Parisara Premi Samiti, said Baikampady had been involved in several environmental movements.Among those who paid tribute were Taranath Gatti Kapikad, A. C. Bhandary, Jagadish Adhikari, Shobhendra Shashihithlu, Thamma Lakshmana, Franklin Montero, Yogish Shetty Jeppu, Dhanaraj Surathkal and Prof Krishnamurthy.Several cultural personalities, journalists and artists, including Anand Shetty, Devadas Bhandary, and Mohan Bolaar, were present at the event.

SDPI seeks action over stray dog menace

RAICHUR

The Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) district unit has urged the district administration to take urgent steps to control the rising problem of stray dogs in Raichur city. The group also demanded compensation for victims of dog attacks.

According to SDPI representatives, repeated complaints and protests to the municipal corporation have not led to effective action so far. They said the number of stray dogs is increasing every day, creating fear among residents, especially children and students.

The organisation pointed out that incidents of dog bites are being reported in several parts of the city. In one recent case on April 20, a young child was attacked near Jania Mohalla and suffered multiple injuries. Similar incidents have been happening for the past year, they said.

SDPI also referred to a 2025 Supreme Court case titled "City Hounded by Strays, Kids Pay Price," urging local authorities to take stronger and immediate measures to address the issue.

The group has requested the municipal corporation to prepare a proper action plan for controlling stray dogs and ensuring public safety. It also stressed that urgent steps are needed to prevent further attacks and reduce public fear.

SDPI representatives Tausif Ahmed, Mohammad Atiq and others were present during the appeal and called for swift government intervention to protect citizens from recurring stray dog incidents in the city.

Eight injured as palanquin falls during ritual procession near Moodbidri

MOODBIDRI

Eight persons were injured after a palanquin carrying sacred offerings toppled during a ritual procession at Bavadabaile near Hosabettu in Moodbidri taluk.The incident occurred when devotees were carrying the "daivara bhandara" (sacred items of a local spirit deity) in a procession from a shrine at Sanadgudde Padihodibettu towards a house at Takode Barke, where a religious ceremony was scheduled on Wednesday night. According to sources, around 25 participants were part of the procession, which included traditional "kombu" and band music. The sacred items and ritual objects were placed in a palanquin and carried over a narrow footbridge.When the procession reached the middle of the bridge, the supporting beam reportedly gave way, causing the structure to collapse. As a result, the palanquin and the carriers fell into a ditch about 10 feet deep.Harish, one of the carriers, sustained fractures to both legs. Sunil Shetty of Maroor, identified as a key ritual performer, suffered serious injuries. Others including Rajesh, Yashodhar, Ashok, Dinesh, Praveen Shetty, Lokesh and Uday sustained minor injuries.

AUTO DRIVER SUPPORT

Students demand high-tech auto stands in Chitradurga

CHITRADURGA

Activists of the Puppies Student Wing submitted a memorandum to City Mayor Lakshmi on Saturday, urging the construction of high-tech auto and taxi stands across key areas of the city.

The activists highlighted that auto drivers in Chitradurga, who serve thousands of passengers every day, are facing serious difficulties due to the absence of proper parking and waiting facilities. In many busy locations, drivers are forced to park their vehicles under harsh sun or during rains, causing inconvenience and affecting their daily work.

They stressed the need to develop well-equipped auto and taxi stands at important junctions, near bus stands, around government offices, and other high-traffic areas. According to the memorandum, these stands should include essential facilities such as seating arrangements, protective sheds, clean drinking water, proper lighting, and other basic amenities.

The student wing members said that such infrastructure would not only improve working conditions for drivers but also enhance convenience and safety for passengers. They urged the municipal authorities to take immediate steps to address the issue and support the city's growing transport needs.

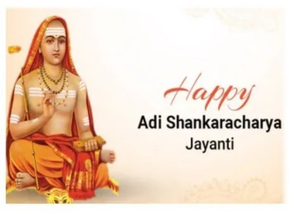
Puppies Student Wing President Ravindra Chinnu, Secretary Salim, and members Darshan and Mithun Idaru were present during the submission.

Kalaburagi POCSO court sentences minor rapist to 20 years

KALABURAGI

The Additional District and Sessions Court (Special POCSO) convicted 23-year-old Sabanna Kattimani from Ratkal village, Kalagi taluk, to 20 years rigorous imprisonment and a ₹1.25 lakh fine for raping a minor girl after false marriage promises.On October 15, 2024, Kattimani took the victim from Ratkal police limits to a rented house in Bengaluru Rural's Budigere village. He held her captive for 15 days (Oct 16-31), repeatedly assaulting her under threats.Ratkal PSI Raghavendra H.S. investigated, filing charges under IPC and POCSO Act sections. Judge Muhammad Mujir Ullah C.G. found guilt proven, imposing 20 years RI plus ₹1 lakh fine under POCSO Section 6 (2 years default imprisonment), and 2 years RI plus ₹25,000 under BNS Section 137(2) (additional punishment for non-payment).The court mandated ₹4 lakh victim compensation via legal authorities. Special Government Prosecutor Shantaveera B. Tupada secured the conviction.

QUICK READ



Kalaburagi observes Adi Shankaracharya Jayanti

KALABURAGI

Adi Shankaracharya Jayanti was observed in Kalaburagi with a simple programme held at Vidyanagar on Sedam Road. The event was organised at the residence of retired professor Kamalakar Sangolgi. Speaking on the occasion, Shyamasundara Joshi, Secretary of Bapu Gowda Darshanapura Education and Welfare Society, said that Adi Shankaracharya's life and teachings continue to guide society even today. He highlighted Shankaracharya's contribution to strengthening Sanatan Dharma through establishment of religious centres across the country and spreading the philosophy of Advaita at a young age. Several local residents and social workers attended the programme and paid tribute to Adi Shankaracharya.

Auto dispute turns violent in Kalaburagi

KALABURAGI

A small argument over moving parked autos turned violent in Bhimalli village of Kalaburagi taluk, leaving two brothers injured after a brutal attack. According to police, the incident happened when Totendra and Sunil were returning after dropping their sister at a family function. They asked auto driver Syed Jamir and his brothers to shift their vehicles parked on the roadside. The situation quickly escalated, and Jamir along with his brothers allegedly attacked the duo with sticks, leaving them injured. Locals rushed to help, and the victims were taken for treatment. A complaint has been filed at the Kalaburagi Suburban Police Station, and an FIR has been registered. Police are investigating the case further.

MLA PAPPI URGES PUBLIC NOT TO IGNORE ILLNESS

MLA said Chitradurga eye camps with Shankar Eye Hospital provide free diagnosis and treatment for rural elderly

CHITRADURGA

MLA K.C. Veerendra Pappi has urged people not to ignore even minor illnesses and advised them to seek proper medical treatment at the right time. He was speaking while presiding over a health check-up camp organised at a government school in the city's fifth ward.

He stressed that health is one of the greatest assets in life and said that without good health, it becomes difficult to achieve anything. He encouraged people to take their health seriously and consult doctors whenever they notice any symptoms, instead of neglecting them.

The MLA highlighted that free eye check-up camps are being conducted across gram panchayats and wards in the Chitradurga assembly constituency in collaboration with Shankar Eye Hospital. He said many elderly people in rural areas suffer from vision-related problems, and these camps aim to provide them timely diagnosis and treatment.

He informed that over the past one and a half years, more than 12,000 eye tests have been conducted under this initiative. Out of these, around 1,136 people have undergone eye surgeries, and nearly 5,800 individuals have been provided free spectacles. He appreciated the efforts of medical staff and volunteers who are offering services without charging any fee.

He further appealed to the public to make use of such free medical camps, especially those facing eye-related issues. He assured that similar camps will continue to be organised in all gram panchayats in the coming days.

Urban Development Authority Chairman Taj Peer also praised the initiative and said such service-oriented programmes play an important role in improving public health. Local leaders and residents were present at the camp.

MLA Somashekhar prioritises power supply for patient safety

BESCOM ensured continuous power supply to Kengeri hospital, improving emergency care, maternal health services, and strengthening public healthcare infrastructure with better coordination.

KENGERI

MLA S. T. Somashekhar launched works to ensure uninterrupted 24×7 power supply to the Kengeri Community Health Centre in Bengaluru's Yeshwantpur constituency. He said the facility will help pregnant women, nursing mothers and newborns receive safe and timely care at the government hospital. Since many patients from nearby rural areas come here for deliveries, continuous electricity has been prioritised to avoid emergency risks.

He added that poor families depend on government hospitals due to high private medical costs, making reliable services essential. Officials from BESCOM said the continuous power arrangement will improve patient safety and support medical staff in critical care. MLA Somashekhar appreciated the efforts of engineers and hospital staff working together to strengthen public healthcare infrastructure. Local leaders and BESCOM officials attended the launch event and assured continued coordination for smooth electricity supply.

The initiative is expected to greatly benefit maternal and child health services in Kengeri and surrounding areas by reducing power interruptions during surgeries and emergency treatments. Residents expressed hope that such infrastructure improvements will continue to be implemented in other government health centres as well. The program highlighted the government's focus on strengthening basic health facilities and ensuring equitable access to quality medical care for all sections of society.

Officials said monitoring systems will be improved to ensure uninterrupted electricity and quick response during technical issues. MLA S. T. Somashekhar reiterated that providing reliable electricity to hospitals is a priority for safeguarding lives and strengthening rural healthcare services across the constituency. He also said the work will be completed in phases with full support from BESCOM and health department officials present.

MLA questioned police action, demanded debate permission with evidence, and warned protest if no action within one month

MLA Balakrishna questions police action during Chakrabhavi incident

MAGADI

MLA HC Balakrishna and former MLA A Manjunath were stopped by police during a tense situation at Chakrabhavi village in Magadi where a public debate was planned over serious corruption allegations involving local leaders and bank officials The event was organised to allow open discussion but police imposed Section 144 prohibitory orders and deployed heavy security across the area Deputy Superintendent of Police Ravi stopped MLA Balakrishna's vehicle at Halasabele gate barricade leading to heated arguments between him and the police officials The MLA questioned the police action and demanded permission for debate saying he was ready with evidence against former leaders accused of spreading false allegations He also warned of a protest if action was not taken within one month while police assured issuance of notices to the accused.

Meanwhile former MLA A Manjunath reached the venue but was stopped by police leading to minor scuffle and later restriction at the JDS office which was briefly locked to prevent gathering The leaders exchanged serious accusations with Manjunath alleging 600 crore scam claims against Balakrishna while counter allegations of 18 crore misappropriation were made against HN Ashok chairman of BDC bank Ashok denied the charges stating that a gold pledge fraud case is already under investigation and recovery process of over 4.38 crore has begun with interest adjustments Police deployed more than 150 personnel to maintain law and order in Chakrabhavi as tension rose between supporters of both political sides including Congress and JDS workers.

Several local leaders including block Congress president Krishnamurthy and other representatives were present during the high tension episode Officials said the situation was brought under control and urged both sides to avoid confrontational politics while legal proceedings continue regarding financial and corruption allegations in the region ensuring strict monitoring by police and district administration They added that peaceful dialogue is necessary for resolving political disputes and maintaining public trust in local governance systems while further investigation will continue into all allegations raised by both parties under supervision of authorities Police said monitoring will remain strict to prevent further escalation of tensions in Magadi region.

Harihar Math dispute escalates over financial allegations

DAVANAGERE

Conflict at Harihar Panchamasali Math has intensified between Vachanananda Swamiji and the Dharmadarshi committee over alleged financial mismanagement of Rs 15 crore issue drawing attention across Davanagere district. Despite being removed from his seat the Swamiji continues to stay in the math with strong support from devotees. On April 13 tensions rose at the monastery near Hanagawadi where devotees demanded accounts and police intervened during clashes.

The trustees later held a meeting under police protection and removed the Swamiji from his position leading to further dispute. Supporters of Swamiji refused to leave him and he continues worship and gives darshan to visiting devotees. Amid growing pressure a Lekka Kodi campaign demanding financial transparency has gained momentum across the region. Trustees announced in a press meet that they will present accounts from 2008 to 2026 which surprised many people. They said the details will not be given immediately but will be shared after a proper process.

Scholars call for truthful interpretation of history

TUMAKURU

Eminent scholar Prof. Baraguru Ramachandrappa stressed that history and mythology must not be turned into false narratives shaped by political or social bias. He was speaking at a state-level symposium and poetry meet organised at Kannada Bhavan by the Bandaya Sahitya Sanghatana on the theme "History and Mythology in Kannada Literature: Social Foundations."

He said history and mythology should remain dynamic and be reinterpreted by each generation with present-day understanding. He expressed concern that political voices are increasingly dominating discussions on history instead of trained historians, which could distort facts. He warned that history built on caste, religion, or political interests would become misleading rather than truthful.

Prof. Ramachandrappa explained that while historians depend on records and evidence, literature approaches history through creativity and symbolism. He noted that real history is not limited to kings and rulers but must include the lives and experiences of common people.

He also highlighted the need to understand the difference between traditional texts and literary interpretations, urging scholars to reject regressive elements while appreciating meaningful cultural symbols. He said folklore and grassroots traditions form the foundation of Indian cultural narratives and must be studied carefully.

He called upon the younger generation to adopt a balanced and critical approach while studying history and mythology. They should avoid bias, question false ideas, and connect heritage with modern thinking.

The event featured multiple academic sessions and a poetry gathering where young poets from across the state presented their works. Scholars, students, and literature enthusiasts attended the programme and discussed the evolving role of literature in understanding society and culture.

Wild elephant attacks tourists near Mekedatu River

RAMANAGARA

A wild elephant suddenly attacked tourists playing in the Cauvery river near Mekedatu in the Sangama forest area during the summer vacation season.

The tourists ran away in panic as the lone elephant came out of the forest to drink water and then attacked them. A woman suffered minor injuries and was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Fortunately there were no major injuries or loss of life.

The incident was recorded on a mobile phone by locals and the video spread quickly in the area. Forest department officials visited the spot and started an investigation into the attack and safety issues in the region.

Meanwhile JDS youth leader Nikhil Kumaraswamy criticized the state government over rising wild elephant attacks in Ramanagara district.

He said farmers are suffering due to repeated elephant menace and demanded a 120-kilometer railway barricade to protect villages.

He added that the budget allocation of Rs 260 crore for elephant control is not enough for the state.

He also accused the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister of not giving enough attention to farmers problems.

Farmers in the region continue to protest demanding safety and permanent solutions to wildlife conflicts affecting their crops.

Leaders urged the government to take immediate action and ensure better protection for both villagers and tourists visiting forest areas in Ramanagara district.

Authorities have advised caution while visiting forest and river areas hence.

IN THE COURT OF THE III ADDITIONAL DISTRICT AND SESSION JUDGE AT HASSAN
MA 21/2024

Appellant: Suman D/o Late Sannegowda R/o Darikongalale Village, Masarangala Post, Mallipatna Hobli, Arkalgud Taluk, Hassan District, Presently residing at Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore.

Vs.

Respondents: Smt. Channamma and others. 3(b) Smt. Hemalatha W/o Late Ramesh, R/o Fort-Piriyapatna, K.R. Nagar Taluk, Mysore District. 3(d) Smt. Nandini W/o Manjunath, R/o Basavana halli Village, Ramanathapura Hobli, Hassan Taluk. 3(e) Smt. Poornima W/o Shivappa, R/o Varamavu, Kalkere, Bidrahalli Post, Bangalore. 3(f) Smt. Vishalakshi W/o Shashikumar, R/o Varamavu, Kalkere, Bidrahalli Post, Bangalore. 4(b) Kavitha D/o Late Mogannagowda, R/o Darikongalale Village, Masarangala Post, Arkalgud Taluk, Hasssan District. 5) Appannagowda, S/o Late Channegowda R/o Darikongalale Village, Masarangala Post, Mallipatna Hobli, Arkalgud Taluk, Hassan District. 14. Smt. Rajamma W/o Late Puttegowda, R/o Makavalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Holenarasipura Taluk Hassan District. 17) Smt. Kanya W/o Suresh, Karehalli Village, Doddamagge Hobli, Arkalgud Taluk, Hassan District. 21) Smt. Savitha W/o Rangaswamy R/o Uduvare Village, Kattaya Hobli Hassan Taluk. 22. Smt. Prema W/o Rangaswamy R/o Gavenahalli Vilalge, Kasaba Hobli Hassan Taluk.

COURT SUMMONS TO THE ABOVE RESPONDENTS

Whereas, the appellant has preferred the above appeal challenging the order passed on the application filed under order XXXIX rule 1 & 2 of CPC in OS 46/2020, dated 12-07-2024, by the Hon'ble Senior Civil Judge, Arkalgud. And where as, the above named respondents are residing at adresseses mentioned in the cause title of the appeal memorandum. You are hereby summoned to appear before III Additional District Judge at Hassan, either in person or through a duly instructed pleaded competent to answer all material questions, relating to the proceedings, on the 22nd day of June 2026 at 11 a.m., without fail. Take further notice that, in default of your appearance on the date and time mentioned above, the matter shall be heard and determined in your absence. Given under my hand and the seal of this Court on this 23rd day of April 2026.

By the order of the court: CAO, District and Sessions Court Hassan.

Adv. For Appellant: M.N. Umadevi.
place: HASSAN
Date: 23-04-26

NAME CHANGE

I, **DORTHY**, W/o Patrick, resident of No. 5/1, Milkman B Street, Nanjappa Circle, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560025, have changed my name to **DOROTHY**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 25.04.2026 before notary G. DAYANANDA, Bengaluru

Document Lost

V.K. Harish s/o Krishnappa Nitrehalli Post Puravara Hobli Madhugiri Taluk Chinnagiripalya Tumukuru resident, I have filed a complaint with Madhugiri Police Station stating that on 20/04/2026, I had lost the documents of the title deed number 3266/2025-26 of the house in the name of our mother Kempamma while getting it xeroxed in front of Madhugiri Bus Stand.I have filed a complaint under lost document report serial number 2163819/2026 to retrieve the lost title deed of the said residential house and have issued a press release requesting to retrieve the said documents.

V.K. HARISH,
MOBILE NUMBER
9741864501

IN THE COURT OF THE I ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMis.No.693/2025

Petitioners: Sri.Dasamariyappa S/o Late Munivenkatappa Aged about 70 years, R/at Gulya Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. V/s

Respondent: Registrar of Birth and death The Tahshildar Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura and others.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioners has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the Great Grandfather of petitioner by name LATE CHANNABANGOPPA S/O SHALLE PILLIGA who died on 18.08.1960 at Gulya Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 15.05.2026. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 22nd day of April 2026

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer Pri Civil Judge & JMFC, Doddaballapura

Advocate: **NAGARAJU.C** Opposite to Court Complex, 4th Ward, Rojjpura, Doddaballapur Town.

DIGITAL ADDICTION CONCERN

Judge urges healthy lifestyle for school children

GADAG

Civil Judge and Member Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority, C. S. Shivanagowda, said that excessive use of mobile phones and television is increasing mental health problems among children. He was speaking after inaugurating the district-level summer camp held at Government Higher Primary School No. 10 in Gadag, jointly organised by the district administration, zilla panchayat, women and child development department, and Bala Bhavan committee.

He said children in earlier generations remained active and healthy as they spent more time outdoors and engaged in physical and cultural activities. In contrast, today's children are increasingly dependent on screens, which is affecting their mental well-being and leading to stress and depression. He advised students to balance studies with hobbies, sports, and household participation to build a strong mind and healthy lifestyle.

Women and Child Development Department Deputy Director Radha Mannura said the purpose of the summer camp is to help children understand the importance of such activities and develop interest in arts along with academics. She said various programmes like traditional games, rain dance, mud games, yoga, and planetarium visits have been arranged.

Officials said the 15-day camp is designed for children aged 5 to 16 years to help identify their talents and improve mental and physical skills. They added that the camp provides a learning environment different from classrooms, focusing on creativity and practical exposure.

Speakers also stressed the importance of teaching moral values along with education, warning that lack of values may lead to social issues in the future. The camp includes training in music, yoga, karate, painting, handicrafts and other creative skills conducted by various experts.

Officials urged parents to encourage children to actively participate in such programmes and reduce screen time to ensure overall personality development and better mental health.

QUICK READ

Ward councillor killed, 3 critically hurt in knife attack

PATNA

A ward councillor was killed and three others sustained critical injuries in a knife attack following a violent clash in Bihar's Saran district, police said on Saturday. The incident occurred in the Manjhi area around 11.30 p.m. on Friday and has triggered shock and tension across the locality. The deceased has been identified as Raja Babu Thakur, the Ward Councillor of Ward No. 9 from Godha village under Manjhi Nagar Panchayat in Chhapra. The festive atmosphere of a Tilakotsav ceremony turned tragic when a dispute with neighbours escalated into a violent brawl. The incident took place late in the evening during preparations for the ceremony.

Digital enumeration to boost data-driven policymaking

NEW DELHI

Census 2027 will be India's first fully digital enumeration, leveraging mobile based data collection to provide reliable and comprehensive data for informed policymaking and inclusive development, an official fact-sheet said on Saturday. It introduces several pioneering features, such as near real-time monitoring through the Census Management & Monitoring System (CMMS) portal, an optional self-enumeration facility, and extensive use of geo-referenced jurisdictions, an official fact-sheet said. The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs has decided to include caste enumeration in the Census. Until the 2011 Census, the exercise included the systematic enumeration of only Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Delhi min Verma accuses Kejriwal of luxury living

'Kejriwal presents himself as a leader of simplicity while 'enjoying' privileges that contradict his public image'

NEW DELHI

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and Delhi Minister Parvesh Verma on Saturday launched a strong criticism against former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, alleging that the Aam Aadmi Party chief has misled the public regarding his lifestyle and housing decisions.

The remarks have intensified the ongoing political tussle in the national capital ahead of key political developments.

Parvesh Verma accused Arvind Kejriwal of presenting himself as a leader of simplicity while allegedly enjoying privileges that contradict his public image. He claimed that Kejriwal had built his political identity on promises of transparency, honesty, and a modest lifestyle, but his actions in office did not align with those claims.

Verma specifically questioned Kejriwal's housing choices, suggesting that the former chief minister had opted for accommodations that were far from modest.

According to Verma, this raises concerns about credibility and trust, especially when leaders project themselves as champions of the common people. He further alleged that such contradictions amount to misleading the public, which could erode confidence in governance.

The BJP leader emphasized that political leaders must be accountable for both their words and actions.

He stated that voters expect consistency and integrity, particularly from those who have risen to power by promising change and ethical governance. Verma added that any deviation from these principles should be scrutinized and brought to public attention.

In response to such allegations in the past, Arvind Kejriwal and his party have maintained that all decisions regarding official residences and facilities were made within the framework of government rules. They have also argued that political opponents often exaggerate issues to gain mileage.

The latest remarks are likely to further escalate tensions between the BJP and the Aam Aadmi Party, both of which have been engaged in a war of words over governance, transparency, and public accountability.

Political observers believe that such exchanges could shape public discourse in Delhi in the coming months, as both sides attempt to reinforce their narratives and appeal to voters.

As the debate continues, the controversy highlights broader questions about political ethics, public perception, and the standards to which elected representatives are held.

CAIT hails RBI decision to cancel Paytm Payments Bank licence

NEW DELHI

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) on Saturday hailed the decisive action taken by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in cancelling the licence of Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL), seeking probe into the matter.

This firm regulatory intervention is in the larger public interest and will help safeguard the hard-earned savings of millions of Indians who trusted the institution with their money, said the industry body in a statement.

CAIT Secretary and BJP MP Praveen Khandelwal said that the RBI's decision reflects the seriousness of repeated regulatory non-compliance, governance failures, and continued disregard for supervisory directions.

It may be recalled that in 2024, the RBI had already imposed major restrictions on the banking operations of Paytm Payments Bank. However, despite earlier warnings and corrective opportunities, the institution appears to have failed to adequately address critical concerns, leading to the present action. Khandelwal appreciated RBI's assurance to depositors that their funds remain safe and will be returned as per due process. This assurance is important, especially for lakhs of small traders, shopkeepers, street vendors, hawkers, self-employed persons and women entrepreneurs who have been using Paytm extensively for day-to-day payments and digital transactions, he said. CAIT had earlier cautioned that any regulatory action on Paytm Payments Bank could create financial inconvenience and transaction disruptions for a large number of micro and small users dependent on the platform.

Therefore, it has urged the authorities to ensure a smooth transition mechanism so that such users do not suffer unnecessary hardship, said the industry body. CAIT National President, BC Bhartia, demanded a comprehensive investigation into the handling, storage, and location of the vast financial and consumer data collected through Paytm's platforms over the years.

Srinagar cops attach drug traffickers' assets worth Rs 3.5 cr

SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar Police said on Saturday that in the intensified crackdown on drugs, it has targeted assets worth Rs 3.5 crore belonging to a drug smugglers.

A police statement said that continuing its intensified crackdown against drug trafficking and under the aegis of the ongoing Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan, Srinagar Police has attached immovable properties worth Rs 3.5 crore belonging to narcotics smugglers.

Police Station Sangam, acting under the provisions of Section 68-F of the NDPS Act, attached two immovable properties linked to the accused persons involved in FIR No. 56/2025 under Sections 8/20 and 29 of the NDPS Act.

The details of the attached properties include a double-storey residential house along with 1 kanal of land, belonging to accused Shakeel Ahmad Ganie, son of Ab Satar Ganie, resident of Kreshbal, Noorbagh, Srinagar; and a double-storey residential house worth over Rs 2 crore, along with 1 kanal of land, belonging to accused Farooq Ahmad Mir, son of Ab Rehman Mir, resident of Kreshbal, Noorbagh, Srinagar; and another double-storey residential house with one kanal of land worth approximately Rs 1.5 crore, owned by Farooq Ahmad Mir of the same area. The Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, on Saturday participated in an anti-drug campaign in Samba. In a post on X, he said, Today in Samba, a massive crowd joined the Drug-Free J&K campaign & pledged to eliminate drugs from society. Addressing the gathering, I reiterated that this 100-day movement will inspire future generations & stand as proof that when people rise together, they can change history.

I told Samba's youth that the solution to this grave problem lies in their hands. Their dreams are powerful; their potential limitless & society must rally behind them to make those dreams real.

Suspect in 31-year-old kidnap, murder case finally arrested

NEW DELHI

The accused, who was allegedly absconding for over three decades, was apprehended from Loni in Uttar Pradesh following sustained surveillance and verification efforts by the police.

According to officials, Salim Wastik, also known as Salim Ahmed or Salim Khan, was wanted in a 1995 case involving the abduction and murder of a 13-year-old boy. The arrest was carried out by a team of the Anti-Robbery and Serious Crime unit of the Crime Branch under the supervision of senior officers, marking a significant breakthrough in a long-pending case. Police records indicate that the incident dates back to January 20, 1995, when Sandeep Bansal, a student and son of a local businessman in North East Delhi, left his home to attend school but did not return. His family initially conducted a search but grew concerned when he failed to come back. The following day, they reportedly received a phone call informing them that the boy had been kidnapped.

Soon after, another call was allegedly made demanding a ransom of Rs 30,000 for the child's safe release. The caller instructed the victim's father to deliver the money at a bus stand near the Loni flyover and place it inside a specific bus heading towards Baghpat. The family was also warned not to inform the police, with threats issued regarding the safety of the child.

Despite the threats, a case was registered at the Gokulpuri police station under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code related to kidnapping. During the investigation, suspicion fell on Salim Khan, who was working as a martial arts instructor at Ramjas School in Daryaganj, where the victim studied.

Cong leaders claim key role in govt formation in West Bengal

KOLKATA

Their remarks come as the party contests independently in the state after a gap of two decades.

The Congress has entered the West Bengal Assembly elections without any alliance, marking a significant shift in its electoral strategy after 20 years. With this approach, the party leadership has positioned itself against both the ruling All India Trinamool Congress and the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party, aiming to establish itself as a viable third force in the state's political landscape.

Pramod Tiwari and Akhilesh Prasad Singh emphasized that although the electoral battle is often seen as a contest between two dominant parties, the Congress is steadily gaining ground. They stated that the party's growing presence could prove crucial in determining the formation of the next government. According to them, the Congress is no longer on the sidelines but is re-emerging as an influential player in the state. Tiwari also highlighted West Bengal's long-standing history of cultural and political movements, suggesting that the state has always been receptive to ideological shifts. He took aim at Union Home Minister Amit Shah, questioning the central government's handling of security, particularly in areas directly under its jurisdiction. At the same time, he criticized the Trinamool Congress, alleging that it has fostered corruption, syndicate practices, and political violence. Echoing similar sentiments, Akhilesh Prasad Singh claimed that no government could be formed in West Bengal without the Congress playing a pivotal role. He further alleged that the state has witnessed a decline in key sectors such as education, healthcare, and industry, calling for a change in governance.

The statements come ahead of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's scheduled visit to the state for election campaigning. Gandhi is set to address multiple meetings, including gatherings in Serampore, Kolkata, and the Metiaburuz area.

TERROR NETWORK REVIVAL

Pak looks to replace flagged OGWs in J&K

NEW DELHI

In a bid to rebuild and revive its terror network in Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan has been trying to set up a group of completely new overground workers (OGWs).

The OGW network, crucial for terror operations in the Valley has largely fallen, following an intense crackdown by the Indian security agencies. An official said that the new OGW network is being set up because most of them, part of the old or existing guard, have police records against them. The ones with police records are easy to track and this information has been used several times by the Jammu and Kashmir Police to nab these OGWs, the official added.

While attempts are being made to send in foreign fighters to Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan realises that they cannot operate without a strong OGW network. This is the network that facilitates the movement of terrorists, their shelter, food and logistics. The presence of a strong OGW network is key to a successful terrorist strike by terrorists. Hence, Pakistan is shunning many within the existing guard and looking for newer ones, the official said.

Some of the men who are on the target list include shopkeepers, tour guides and unemployed youth. Another official said that Pakistan would not entirely dismantle its OGW network. It would have a couple of them from the old guard to be part of the network. These persons have experience and would be needed to train the newer lot, the official added.

The ISI is also attempting to get the youth of Jammu and Kashmir onboard. It is attempting to restart its earlier programme through which the ISI would sponsor the education of the youth.

The education would be imparted in top universities and colleges abroad. They would pick countries such as the US, UK and Australia for the education of the youth. Like in the past, they would avoid taking the students to Pakistan and imparting education. This would become too obvious and Pakistan would want to avoid that.

EMKAY GLOBAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Emkay Global Financial Services Ltd. ("Emkay") is a SEBI-registered intermediary engaged in the business of securities broking and wealth management services.

NOTICE is hereby given to the general Public, our valued Customers and Business Associates that it has been brought to the knowledge of the company that Mr. S.R. Vinay who was formally employed as AVP Wealth Management at Bengaluru Branch of Emkay Wealth Management Division and ceased to be associated with Emkay with effect from 3rd October 2023 and it has been reported that he has been indulging in disreputable activities to Emkay, its clients/customers/business associates viz. solicit business, provide investment advice and/or deal with the clients on behalf of Emkay.

All the members of the Public are hereby informed that Mr. S.R. Vinay, ex-employee , during or after his employment with Emkay, at no point was authorized to solicit, receive or handle any client's funds in his personal capacity, nor transact, negotiate or accept payment in his personal bank account, nor utilize or share any confidential information data or proprietary document. Emkay does not recognize or permit off-platform transactions or transfer of client monies to personal bank account of employees or former employees.

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AT LARGE are advised to exercise due caution and to deal with only through duly authorized representatives of Emkay and its official platforms.

While we are pursuing appropriate legal action in this regard, by way of this Public Notice, we inform and caution our unwary clients, customers and public at large not to get misled by the despicable act of the ex-employee and take informed decisions.

We request our stakeholders to immediately report any unauthorized act to Emkay Compliance Department at compliance@emkayglobal.com.

This Public Notice is issued in the interest of investor awareness and protection, without prejudice to Emkay's rights and remedies in law.

Sd/-
Date : 26.04.2026
Place : Bangalore
Authorised Signatory
Emkay Global Financial Services Ltd.

Government of Karnataka
GULBARGA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, KALABURAGI
(Autonomous Institution of Govt. of Karnataka)
E-mail:directorgimsgulbarga@gmail.com Phone No 08472-260252

No: GIMS/KLB/Tender/Print/CR/02/2026-27/198 Date:-23/04/2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement)

Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi invites tender for eligible bidders in bid system (Techno-commercial Bid & Financial Bid) in e-procurement 2.0 mode for the SUPPLY OF **"PRINTING ITEMS" For Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi.** Details are available in the site: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last date and time for upload of e-tender in E-procurement platform as follows.
1) Commencement of download of e-Tender Form from website-https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in: No. GIMS/KLB/Tender/Print/CR/02/2026-27, Date:23.04.2026. INDENT No: DME/2026-27/IND2198. 2) Last Date for Online Queries : **30-04-2026 at 17:00 pm,** 3) Pre-bid Meeting : **02-05-2026 at 11:00 am,** 4) Last Date for Uploading of Tender in e-procurement platform on or before : **08-05-2026 at 4.30 pm,** 5) Opening of Techno-Commercial Bid : **11-05-2026 at 05:00 pm**, 6) Opening of Tenders Financial bid : **12-05-2026 at 05:00 pm,** 7) Tender amount : **Rs. 1,23,80,053=00,** 8) EMD : Rs. 2,00,000=00, 9) Contact Details: Director, GIMS Kalaburagi veresh Nagar sedam road Kalaburagi 585105. Office Email: directorgimsgulbarga@gmail.com Land Line:08472-260252 Cell:+91 9482093568 Tender Section Email: gimstenderklb22@gmail.com Cell:+91 9972688602

Sd/- Director
Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences,Kalaburagi.
DIPR/Kalaburagi/77/KSMC&A/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ,
ಶ್ರೀ ಮಲೈ ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಬೆಟ್ಟ, ಹನೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 08225-272128. Email: sec.mmtemple@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಶ್ರೀ ಮ.ಮ.ಕ್ಷೇ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ/3/ಪಿಆರ್/5/2026-27. ದಿನಾಂಕ : 16-04-2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ)
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1.	ಬಂಗಾರದ ತೇರಿನ ಸೇವಾರ್ಥದಾರರಿಗೆ ವಿತರಿಸಲು ಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವ 200 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕ, 3.50 ಇಂಚು ವ್ಯಾಸವಿರುವ ತಾಮ್ರದ ಚೆಂಬು ಹಾಗೂ 300 ಗ್ರಾಂ ತೂಕವುಳ್ಳ 9.50 ಇಂಚು ವ್ಯಾಸವುಳ್ಳ CU-93% ಇರುವ ತಾಮ್ರದ ತಟ್ಟೆ ಸೇರಿ ಒಂದು ಸೆಟ್ಟು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದರಿ ತಟ್ಟೆಯ ಮೇಲ್ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಶ್ರೀ ಸ್ವಾಮಿಯ ಬಂಗಾರದ ತೇರಿನ ಚಿತ್ರದೊಡನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಶ್ರೀ ಮಲೈ ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಬೆಟ್ಟ ಎಂದು ಮುದ್ರಿಸಿ 60,000 ಸಾವಿರ ಸೆಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಎಲ್ಲಾ ತೆರಿಗೆಗಳು ಸೇರಿ.	380.00	3,80,000-00

ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19-05-2026 ಸಂಜೆ:4.00 ಗಂಟೆ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ವಿಷಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 9886306737ನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯಡಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ.

1. ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳು ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ದಿನಾಂಕ : 21-04-2026	ರ ನಂತರ
2. ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ ಮಾದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆ (Sample Tender pre bid meeting)	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13-05-2026	ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
3. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ರ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಲ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20-05-2026	ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
4 ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಲ	ದಿನಾಂಕ:22-05-2026	ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.00ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ
5 ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಲ	ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆಯ ನಂತರ	

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ
ಶ್ರೀಮಲೈ ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ,
ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮಹದೇಶ್ವರಬೆಟ್ಟ.

ಸಂ : ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ: ಚಾನಗರ:69:2026-27.

QUICK READ

Khalsa's new strategy: Radicalise rural Punjab, hit urban targets

New Delhi

Intelligence agencies have issued a fresh alert regarding plans by the banned outfit Babbar Khalsa International to revive the Khalistan movement in Punjab, with a new strategy focused on rural radicalisation and low-intensity attacks in urban centres, officials familiar with the development have said. Security and intelligence agencies have foiled several such attempts in recent years, prompting the radical group to rethink its approach. While Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) had earlier focused on recruiting and radicalising youth in urban areas, officials say those efforts largely failed.

Security forces arrest three ULFA-I members in Nagaland

Kohima

Security forces have apprehended three cadres of the banned United Liberation Front of Asom (Independent) [ULFA-I] during a counter-insurgency operation in Nagaland's Mon district, officials said on Saturday. According to officials, the operation was launched based on specific intelligence inputs regarding the movement of ULFA-I cadres in the region. The cadres were reportedly active in the Phomching area and were attempting to move towards Shangnyu village when security forces initiated the operation.

Troops of the Assam Rifles carried out a targeted raid at Shangnyu village under the Phomching sub-division.

V-P's call for students to become job creators, nation builders

Jaipur

The Vice-President of India, C.P. Radhakrishnan, on Saturday urged youth to become job creators and nation-builders while addressing the 35th convocation ceremony of the University of Rajasthan in Jaipur. Gracing the programme as the chief guest, the Vice-President described Rajasthan as a land of rich heritage, bravery and cultural depth, noting that Jaipur stands as a symbol of both tradition and progress. He said the university continues to shape generations of thinkers, leaders and change-makers committed to knowledge, integrity and service. Congratulating graduating students, he said a convocation marks both an end and a beginning, urging them to use education as a tool for societal progress.

He emphasised that the true value of education lies in its application for innovation, ethical conduct and the betterment of society.

Power crisis row deepens in Keralam as Oppn-govt trade charges

Oppn leader argued that a long-term deal secured during Chandy's tenure to procure 465 MW of power at a cost of Rs 4.29 per unit was arbitrarily cancelled

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Leader of the Opposition VD Satheesan on Saturday alleged that the emerging power crisis in Kerala and reports of unannounced load shedding were the result of flawed decisions by the state government.

He accused the ruling front of scrapping long-term electricity purchase agreements and claimed that corruption may have influenced the move. Satheesan strongly criticized the government, stating that the current situation has caused significant inconvenience to people, especially amid intense summer heat. He demanded the immediate withdrawal of any power restrictions and warned that the United Democratic Front would launch strong protests if the outages continue. According to him, frequent disruptions in electricity supply have become a serious concern for residents across the state.

The Opposition leader also questioned the ruling Left Democratic Front's claim of ensuring uninterrupted power supply over the past decade under Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. He argued that a long-term agreement secured during the tenure of former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, which allowed procurement of 465 MW of power at an average cost of Rs 4.29 per unit, was arbitrarily cancelled.

Satheesan alleged that due to this decision, the state is now forced to purchase electricity at significantly higher rates ranging between Rs 6 and Rs 12 per unit. He claimed that this has resulted in daily financial losses of Rs 15–20 crore for the Kerala State Electricity Board. He further alleged that private companies benefited from the decision and demanded a detailed probe into the matter.Responding to the allegations, Electricity Minister K. Krishnankutty denied that there is any unannounced load shedding in the state. He clarified that only natural regulation is being carried out when the power grid faces overload.

According to the minister, electricity consumption has crossed 6,195 MW, forcing the state to procure power at higher costs to meet demand. Krishnankutty emphasized that the government is making efforts to avoid a tariff hike and urged consumers to use electricity responsibly. He also rejected criticism of the LDF's earlier claims, stating that the current strain on power supply is part of a broader national trend driven by rising temperatures and increased demand.In a pointed response to the Opposition, the minister attributed the surge in consumption to extreme weather conditions, suggesting that nature itself is responsible for the current stress on the system.

He expressed confidence that the situation would stabilize within a couple of days.

Meanwhile, complaints of frequent short-duration outages, particularly during nighttime, are being reported from various parts of Kerala.

CIK raids Srinagar Central Jail in terror-related case

SRINAGAR

The Counter-Intelligence Kashmir wing (CIK) on Saturday carried out a raid at the Central Jail in J&K's Srinagar in connection with a terror-related case. Officials said that CIK sleuths conducted searches at Central Jail Srinagar in connection with a terror-linked case and seized digital communication devices.officials added that the searches were carried out following a warrant issued by a special court designated under the NIA Act in a case registered as FIR No 06/2023 at Police Station CI Kashmir. He said the case was registered under Sections 153-A, 505, 121, and 120-B of the IPC, along with Sections 13 and 39 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.Acting on technical inputs about the presence.

Spiritual scholar Prasad dies at 87 in Keralam

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Muni Narayana Prasad passed away at the age of 87, marking the end of a life that seamlessly blended knowledge with humility. Based at the Gurukulam in the Sreenivasapuram area of Varkala in Kerala, he transformed the ashram into both a center of meditation and a hub of intellectual engagement. Through his work, he presented the profound teachings of the Upanishads and Sree Narayana Guru in a simple and accessible manner, making them relevant to modern society.

A spiritual successor to Nataraja Guru and Guru Nitya Chaitanya Yati, Prasad led the Gurukulam's global network while maintaining the simplicity and discipline of a monk. Despite receiving the prestigious Padma Shri, he remained deeply committed to the daily life and routines of the institution, demonstrating that spirituality requires consistent effort and dedication.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday expressed deep sorrow over the demise of Muni Narayana Prasad, the revered head of Narayana Gurukulam and a distinguished interpreter of Sree Narayana Guru's philosophy.

Born in 1938 near Thiruvananthapuram, Prasad initially trained and worked as an engineer. However, driven by a deeper spiritual quest, he chose to renounce his professional career. He was initiated into brahmacharya in 1970 and later embraced sannyasa, dedicating himself fully to the study and practice of Advaita philosophy.A prolific author, Muni Narayana Prasad wrote nearly 200 works in Malayalam and English. His scholarly contributions include widely respected commentaries on major Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita. His interpretations of Sree Narayana Guru's poetry played a significant role in making complex philosophical ideas understandable to a broader audience.Beyond India, Prasad served as a visiting professor and participated in international forums, sharing his insights across continents, from Moscow to Fiji. At the Gurukulam, he combined intellectual discipline with physical labour, setting a personal example by engaging in routine tasks and instilling a sense of order among his disciples.Detached from recognition, he accepted honors like the Padma Shri with quiet humility.

Crime branch nabs man wanted in land forgery case

JEYPORE

A Crime Branch team led by Additional Superintendent of Police Bijay Mallick has arrested an absconding accused and produced him before a local court in Jeypore. The accused, who had been on the run for several years, was wanted in connection with a land forgery case.The accused has been identified as Prasanna Kumar Patra, a resident of Jeypore town in Odisha's Koraput district. According to officials, Patra had been evading arrest for more than eight years after being named in a land forgery case registered in 2018.

A five-member Crime Branch team tracked him down and arrested him before producing him at the Jeypore court. Officials stated that he was wanted in connection with allegedly forging documents, including an order purportedly issued by the Orissa High Court.

Cong to move SC against HC order denying bail to Khera

NEW DELHI

The Indian National Congress on Saturday said it will challenge the Gauhati High Court order rejecting anticipatory bail to party leader Pawan Khera before the Supreme Court of India. The party expressed strong support for Khera, calling the case an example of political targeting. Congress General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh stated that the party stands firmly with Pawan Khera and is confident that judicial relief will be granted. In a post on the social media platform X, Ramesh said that the Congress believes justice will prevail over what he described as politics driven by threat, intimidation, and harassment.The development comes a day after the Gauhati High Court rejected Khera's plea for anticipatory bail in connection with a case registered in Assam. The FIR was lodged following alleged remarks made by Khera against Riniki Bhuyan Sharma, the wife of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.A single-judge bench of Justice Parthivjyoti Saikia ruled that Khera did not deserve the relief of anticipatory bail. The court observed that the matter could not be treated as mere defamation and noted that there were grounds for a prima facie case under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. The case originates from statements made by Khera during a press conference in Guwahati earlier this month, where he alleged that Riniki Bhuyan Sharma possessed multiple foreign passports and had financial dealings abroad.

5 self-styled godmen held for duping Sundargarh villagers

SUNDARGARH

Sundargarh Sadar police have arrested five self-styled godmen for allegedly cheating and looting innocent villagers in the Sadar police station area.

All five arrested persons are from the Aurangabad region of Bihar. Police have seized gold ornaments worth several lakhs of rupees along with cash amounting to Rs 36,000 from their possession.

The arrested identified as Gugu Panda Dular Panda, Bisal Panda, Dhanu Panda and Doctor Panda. All five have been forwarded to court.

According to police, the gang had been active in the Sadar area for quite some time. They would approach simple villagers, create fear by warning them of impending misfortune or danger to their family, and then demand gold ornaments and cash as offerings to ward off evil.

The latest incident that led to their arrest occurred yesterday when three of the fake babas visited the house of Gobardhan Oram in Lankahuda village under Sadar police station. Gobardhan's wife initially gave them rice and Rs 20. The fake babas then threatened Gobardhan's wife, claiming that a calamity would befall them. When the family members said they could not give gold, the babas allegedly threatened to harm their child. Two more members of the gang later joined them and intensified the threats.

Following the complaint lodged by Gobardhan at Sadar police station, the Superintendent of Police directed the formation of three separate teams. The teams conducted raids at different locations and successfully arrested the five accused.

CIK raids Srinagar Central Jail in terror-related case

SRINAGAR

The Counter-Intelligence Kashmir wing (CIK) on Saturday carried out a raid at the Central Jail in J&K's Srinagar in connection with a terror-related case. Officials said that CIK sleuths conducted searches at Central Jail Srinagar in connection with a terror-linked case and seized digital communication devices.

officials added that the searches were carried out following a warrant issued by a special court designated under the NIA Act in a case registered as FIR No 06/2023 at Police Station CI Kashmir. He said the case was registered under Sections 153-A, 505, 121, and 120-B of the IPC, along with Sections 13 and 39 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Acting on technical inputs about the presence of suspicious digital signatures inside the jail premises, search operations were conducted across multiple barracks and blocks in coordination with jail authorities, an official said.

The official said that during the operation, digital communication devices and other incriminating material were recovered and seized.

The seized devices will be sent for forensic examination to establish possible links and identify any wider network connected with the case, he said, adding that an inquiry has also been initiated into how the devices were brought inside the high-security prison and the role of any facilitators involved.The official said the operation is part of ongoing efforts to curb misuse of communication devices in sensitive establishments, including prisons, and to investigate terror-related activities in the Union Territory. The Counter-Intelligence is a part of the J&K criminal investigation case (CID) of the police and is assigned counter-intelligence duties.The wing has worked with appreciable results for many years in countering the designs of the enemy and unearthing plots aimed against the sovereignty and integrity of the country. The wing also carries out focused verification of individuals suspected of having terror links.

JUDGE NEVER RETIRES

Rtd judges 'vital reservoirs' for judiciary: CJI

JAIPUR

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Saturday underscored the enduring value of retired judges, comparing them to traditional stepwells that sustain communities during difficult times.Speaking at a seminar in Jaipur, he highlighted the need to better utilise their experience to strengthen the judicial system. Addressing a one-day seminar titled The Bench Beyond Retirement, the Chief Justice drew a powerful analogy from the arid regions of Rajasthan, where stepwells, locally known as bawris, act as crucial water reserves during droughts. Referring to his roots in Churu, he explained how these structures collect rainwater over time and provide sustenance when resources run scarce. He said retired judges play a similar role during periods of institutional stress, offering guidance, wisdom, and stability. CJI Surya Kant stressed that the legal system often underestimates the value of former judges after retirement. He remarked that while farewell ceremonies acknowledge their contributions, the system tends to move on without effectively leveraging their expertise. A judge never truly retires. Once a judge, always a judge, he said, emphasizing that their knowledge cannot be replaced by committees or training programmes.He highlighted that judges carry not only a deep understanding of law but also insights into human experiences. Over years of service, they witness diverse societal challenges, from the struggles of rural farmers to the concerns of entrepreneurs and families in distress.

on
"The Bench Beyond Retirement: Role of Retired Judges in
Advancement of ADR and Awareness of Laws For Common Masses"
25th April, 2026

This accumulated understanding, he noted, makes them uniquely equipped to contribute meaningfully even after retirement.

CAIT hails RBI decision to cancel Paytm Payments Bank licence

NEW DELHI

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) on Saturday hailed the decisive action taken by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in cancelling the licence of Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL), seeking probe into the matter.This firm regulatory intervention is in the larger public interest and will help safeguard the hard-earned savings of millions of Indians who trusted the institution with their money, said the industry body in a statement.CAIT Secretary and BJP MP Praveen Khandelwal said that the RBI's decision reflects the seriousness of repeated regulatory non-compliance, governance failures, and continued disregard for supervisory directions.

It may be recalled that in 2024, the RBI had already imposed major restrictions on the banking operations of Paytm Payments Bank. However, despite earlier warnings and corrective opportunities, the institution appears to have failed to adequately address critical concerns, leading to the present action.

QUICK READ

India strengthens ties with Tuvalu through talks

FUNAFUTI

Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita held trade and development talks with Tuvalu's Acting Prime Minister Paulson Panapa during his first official visit. He reaffirmed India's support for Tuvalu's growth, focusing on health and climate-resilient infrastructure. Meetings were also held with Governor-General Tofiga Vaevalu Falani and Minister Maina Vakafua Talia to discuss climate action and disaster readiness. Margherita said the visit aims to deepen cooperation and friendship. He will review India-funded projects during the two-day trip, highlighting India's continued commitment to Pacific Island nations and their sustainable development goals.

Rights group launches new advocacy project nationwide

FAISALABAD

Human Rights Focus Pakistan, with support from the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, launched a new project to strengthen human rights advocacy across the country. The initiative focuses on documenting violations, fact-finding, and supporting marginalized communities. At an event in Faisalabad, activists and leaders discussed plans, challenges, and roles. Monthly meetings and field missions will help track cases and push for justice. President Naveed Walter said the new phase aims to expand outreach despite past limits. The group will also raise awareness, build skills, and provide legal help to ensure protection of basic rights and democratic values nationwide.

White House sees baby boom amid leave

WASHINGTON DC

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt announced she is going on maternity leave as she prepares to welcome her daughter. She said her team will continue sharing updates in her absence. Leavitt, who married Nicholas Riccio in 2025, already has a son. The development comes as several women linked to White House are expecting children. Meanwhile, debates on gender roles and workplace culture continue, with Donald Trump and officials drawing attention for remarks and policy decisions in recent months.

CANADA-S. KOREA FORGE STRONGER MILITARY TIES

Canada-South Korea strengthen military ties through high-tech drills and defense modernization, honoring their historic Korean War bond.

SEOUL

The historic bond between Canada and South Korea, first cemented on the battlefields of the 1950s, is entering a powerful new era of cooperation. During a recent visit to Seoul, Lieutenant General Michael Wright, Commander of the Canadian Army, emphasized that the partnership is growing "stronger" as both nations face an increasingly fractured world.

The General's visit coincided with the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Gapyeong, a pivotal Korean War conflict where Canadian troops fought heroically. To honor this history, members of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry recently arrived in South Korea to participate in their first-ever high-tech military drills alongside local forces. This move signals a shift from purely commemorative ties to active, modern defense collaboration.

A major focus of this strengthening relationship is Canada's massive army modernization project, the largest in over 25 years. General Wright confirmed that Canada is looking closely at South Korea's advanced defense industry to accelerate its equipment upgrades. Key technologies under discussion include the K9 howitzers and the Redback Infantry Fighting Vehicle. These potential deals follow a strategic agreement made last year between world leaders to deepen intelligence sharing and military security.

For Canada, which sent over 26,000 soldiers to support South Korea decades ago, the current alliance is a natural progression. By combining shared history with cutting-edge technology, both nations aim to secure a more stable future. General Wright noted that these deepening ties serve as a clear indicator of the collaborative path both countries will walk together.

A US House panel cleared twenty export control measures to restrict China's access to advanced semiconductor and AI technologies.

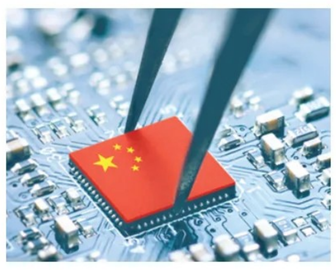
US panel moves to block China chips

WASHINGTON. D.C

A powerful US House panel has taken a significant step toward restricting China's technological growth by clearing 20 new export control measures.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee advanced these proposals this week, specifically targeting China's access to advanced semiconductor technology and high-end manufacturing equipment. This move signals a major escalation in the ongoing global battle for tech supremacy.

One of the central pieces of legislation is the "Match Act." Introduced by Representative Michael Baumgartner, the bill aims to close "back doors" by forcing US allies to align their export rules with Washington's strict standards. The goal is to prevent the Chinese Communist Party from acquiring deep ultraviolet lithography machines and other essential tools used to build modern chips. Baumgartner warned that the US cannot allow China to dominate the technologies that drive both the economy and national defense.



In addition to equipment curbs, the panel introduced the "Stop Stealing Our Chips Act." This bill offers incentives for whistleblowers to report any violations of export controls. Another measure, the "Deterring American AI Model Theft Act," threatens sanctions against Chinese firms that misuse artificial intelligence models developed in the United States.

While some broader bans were scaled back during the debate, the core restrictions remain firm. The US semiconductor industry has largely backed these measures, citing unfair competition from state-backed Chinese firms. These bills now move to the full House of Representatives, representing a determined effort by lawmakers to safeguard national security by keeping critical technology out of rival hands.

AI deepfakes devastate lives of Bangladeshi women

DHAKA

A silent and digital crisis is sweeping through Bangladesh, as the misuse of Artificial Intelligence (AI) triggers social ruin for women.

Emerging reports highlight a terrifying rise in "deepfakes," where perpetrators superimpose women's faces onto pornographic content. This high-tech abuse is destroying reputations and forcing victims out of public life, with some cases tragically ending in suicide.

Victims range from students and professionals to high-profile politicians and actresses. In one heartbreaking instance, a woman took her own life after a fabricated video was sent to her family, weaponizing the country's strict social focus on "family honor." Another university student was forced to resign from her organizations and consider quitting her studies after doctored images circulated through her community. Even prominent figures, such as former government advisor Syeda Rizwana Hasan, have been targeted by malicious accounts designed to humiliate female leaders.

Research indicates that a staggering 89 percent of women social media users in Bangladesh have experienced some form of online violence.

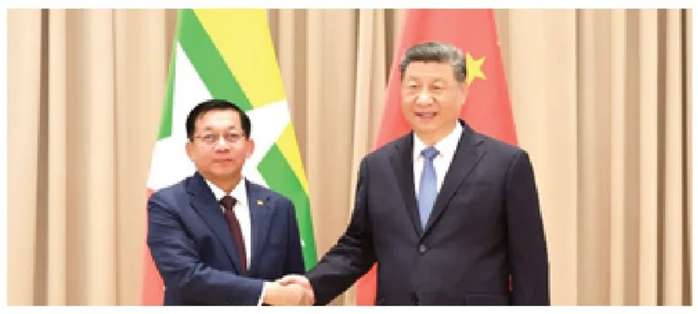
Myanmar's new govt deepens co-op with China

NAYPYIDAW

Myanmar's military-led government has signaled a significant shift in its foreign policy by appointing Tin Maung Swe as the new Foreign Minister.

A former Brigadier General and ex-Ambassador to Beijing, his appointment is seen by experts as a clear move to strengthen the country's alignment with China. This development comes as the nation faces increasing isolation from Western powers following the 2021 coup.

Strategic analyst Bertil Lintner suggests that history is repeating itself in a "tragic" cycle. After the 1988 massacres, Myanmar's military relied heavily on China before briefly opening to the West a decade ago. However, following recent sanctions and boycotts from the United States and Europe, the junta has once again turned to Beijing for political and economic survival. This time, the military appears more determined to maintain this partnership to avoid past vulnerabilities.



The relationship is equally vital for Beijing. Myanmar serves as a crucial gateway to the Indian Ocean, allowing China to bypass the crowded Malacca Strait and the contested South China Sea. This "land bridge" is essential for China to import oil, gas, and minerals while exporting its goods directly to global markets.

As the military-dominated government seeks to solidify its power through these foreign contacts, the report warns that the local population has little say in the matter. Backed by Chinese influence and a more sophisticated approach to diplomacy, the current regime seems more firmly entrenched than ever, leaving the people of Myanmar to bear the cost of this geopolitical shift.

Pak reboots strategy to revive Kashmir terror

INDIA

Pakistan is overhauling its Kashmir networks by recruiting clean-record workers and targeting students through overseas education funding to discreetly radicalize and revive separatist logistics.

Pakistan is moving to overhaul its underground networks in Jammu and Kashmir after a sustained crackdown by Indian security forces crippled its operations.

Intelligence reports reveal that the Pakistani establishment is now seeking to recruit a fresh batch of "overground workers" (OGWs) who have no prior police records. These individuals, including shopkeepers and unemployed youth, are harder for local authorities to track compared to the "flagged" veterans currently on the radar.

While the old guard is not being entirely discarded, they are expected to serve as mentors for the new recruits. These workers are essential to terror operations, providing the logistics, food, and shelter required for foreign fighters to survive in the Valley. Officials state that Pakistan realizes foreign militants cannot operate effectively without this localized support system.

Simultaneously, the ISI is launching a deceptive "student outreach" program to win over the youth. Rather than bringing students to Pakistan, which raises immediate red flags, the plan involves discreetly funding education at prestigious universities in the UK, US, and Australia. Once these students are abroad, agents aim to radicalize them away from the eyes of Indian agencies.

The goal is for these educated individuals to return to Kashmir to push separatist narratives and recruit others. This desperate reset comes as Pakistan faces internal pressure from hardliners to reignite the Kashmir issue. Despite these efforts, Indian authorities remain vigilant, continuing to promote mainstream opportunities for the youth while maintaining a high level of security at the borders.

India-NZ set for historic trade deal

INDIA

India and New Zealand are on the verge of a major economic breakthrough as they prepare to sign a landmark Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, announced that the deal will be officially signed soon, marking what he calls a "new chapter" in the relationship between the two nations.

The announcement came during a visit from New Zealand's Trade Minister, Todd McClay. Goyal welcomed his counterpart, stating that this partnership is built on shared values and a common vision for growth. The agreement was reached in record time, negotiations only began in March 2025 and were wrapped up by December of the same year. This makes it one of the fastest trade deals India has ever concluded.

For India, the benefits are significant. The FTA will provide duty-free access for Indian exports, making it cheaper to sell goods in New Zealand. At the same time, the deal includes protections for India's more sensitive industries to ensure local businesses aren't harmed. Beyond just goods, the agreement opens doors for Indian professionals. It creates new opportunities for skilled workers in fields like IT, healthcare, and education to work in New Zealand.

Government officials believe this pact will serve as a vital gateway for India to reach other markets in the Pacific Islands. By removing trade barriers and encouraging cooperation in services like engineering and construction, both countries hope to drive long-term prosperity and strengthen their economic resilience on the global stage.

INDO-PACIFIC ON FOCUS

India-US strengthen Indo-Pacific ties

WASHINGTON. D.C.

India and the United States have once again signaled a powerful strategic alignment during high-level military talks held in Washington.

General Anil Chauhan, India's Chief of Defence Staff, met with General Kevin B Schneider, a top official from the US Indo-Pacific Command.

The two leaders focused on a shared vision for regional security, reaffirming their commitment to maintaining peace and stability across the Indo-Pacific region.

A key outcome of the meeting was the clear intent to expand the complexity and frequency of joint military engagements. Both nations plan to move beyond traditional drills toward more "operationalized" missions involving all branches of their armed forces.

The leaders recognized that in the modern era, technology is the ultimate decider of power. Consequently, they pledged to enhance their synergy through advanced technological collaboration and strategic foresight to stay ahead of emerging global threats.

This meeting follows General Chauhan's recent visit to the United Kingdom, where he held similar discussions with British military chiefs. Whether in London or Washington, the message remains consistent, India is positioning itself as a central pillar in the global security order.

By addressing everything from cyber threats to trade imbalances, India is working closely with its Western allies to ensure a resilient and secure international environment.

As global tensions fluctuate, this deepening bond between New Delhi and Washington serves as a stabilizing force. Both sides emphasized that their partnership is not just about mutual defense, but about shaping a prosperous and peaceful future for the entire world.

RUSSIAN OFFICIAL VISITS PYONGYANG TO HONOR SOLDIERS

PYONGYANG

Vyacheslav Volodin, the speaker of Russia's State Duma, arrived in North Korea for a high-profile working visit. His trip marks a significant moment in the deepening alliance between the two nations.

Volodin traveled to Pyongyang on the direct instructions of President Vladimir Putin to attend the opening of a new memorial museum dedicated to North Korean soldiers who died fighting for Russia.

The new "Memorial Museum of Combat Feats" honors North Korean troops who reportedly helped Russia recapture the Kursk region during the ongoing conflict with Ukraine. Official reports suggest that North Korea deployed approximately 15,000 combat troops to assist Russian forces following a strategic partnership treaty signed by Kim Jong-un and Putin in June 2024. This museum serves as a permanent symbol of the military blood bond formed on the modern battlefield.

Upon his arrival, Volodin was greeted by Jo Yong-won, the chairman of North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly. Beyond the Sunday museum ceremony, Volodin is scheduled to hold meetings with North Korean parliamentary leaders to further strengthen bilateral ties.

This visit follows recent discussions between the two countries' interior and public security ministers regarding law enforcement cooperation. From military support to police exchanges, the relationship between Moscow and Pyongyang has reached a level of intensity not seen in decades.

As Volodin pays tribute to the fallen, the visit underscores a mutual commitment to a unified front against Western pressure, signaling that their strategic partnership is now being etched into history.

Domestic investors hit record 29% equities

Domestic investors reach record 29% equity ownership in India markets growth trend

NEW DELHI

Domestic investors' participation in Indian equities has reached a record high, with their ownership rising to 29%, according to a report by Morgan Stanley.The report noted that domestic ownership in listed equities increased by 40 basis points in the March quarter, driven mainly by institutional investors. Domestic institutions alone raised their stake by 58 basis points to 19.3%, while direct household participation also rose by 20 basis points.This surge in domestic inflows has helped offset a decline in foreign participation. Foreign portfolio investor (FPI) holdings in Indian equities fell to their lowest level in 16 years, reflecting sustained selling pressure from global investors amid volatile market conditions.

The report highlighted that strong domestic flows and weaker foreign positioning could support primary market issuances and encourage corporate buybacks. It also pointed to sectoral preferences, with institutions showing an overweight stance on financials and consumer discretionary sectors, while remaining underweight on energy, materials, healthcare, and utilities.Foreign investors, meanwhile, maintained a large overweight position in financials but reduced exposure during the quarter. Industrials remained their most underweight sector.

On the flow side, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) continued to sell equities, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) remained strong buyers, helping stabilise market sentiment.Despite domestic support, Indian equity markets ended the week lower, weighed down by geopolitical tensions, rising crude oil prices, and weakness in IT stocks.

QUICK READ

Global funds bypass India on AI perception gap

New Delhi

Global capital is currently bypassing India because investors increasingly view it as lacking a strong "AI-led" investment narrative, even though its long-term fundamentals remain intact, according to Swarup Mohanty, CEO of Mirae Asset Investment Managers. He noted that global funds are rotating toward markets seen as dominant in artificial intelligence, which has led to weaker foreign inflows into India despite its growth story. At the same time, he stressed that India's domestic demand, mutual fund participation, and earnings recovery prospects continue to provide a stable foundation for the market. He also added that while global sentiment is shifting quickly and causing short-term volatility, India still offers long-term structural growth opportunities supported .

Google to invest $40B in Anthropic AI push

New Delhi

Google plans to invest up to $40 billion in AI firm Anthropic as competition in the global AI race intensifies. The deal includes an initial $10 billion investment at a $380 billion valuation, with the remaining $30 billion tied to performance milestones. The partnership builds on existing collaboration where Google provides cloud infrastructure and its TPU chips to support Anthropic's Claude models. Anthropic also recently secured large-scale computing capacity and is expanding rapidly. Despite being partners, both companies compete in the AI market, with Google's Gemini models facing Anthropic's offerings.

Indian IT hiring turns negative as headcount falls

New Delhi

India's top IT services companies saw a rare contraction in workforce during FY26, with combined headcount falling by over 7,000 employees across major firms like Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, HCLTech, Wipro and Tech Mahindra. The decline marks a sharp reversal from FY25, when the sector had added over 12,000 jobs. The drop was largely driven by significant workforce reductions at TCS, which alone cut around 12,000 roles, outweighing modest gains at other firms. Industry-wide hiring also slowed, with NASSCOM reporting near-flat net job additions of about 2,000 year-on-year. Companies cited cautious demand outlooks and rapid AI-driven transformation

India sees $106 million inflow after weeks

NEW DELHI

India recorded a net inflow of $106 million in the latest week, marking the first positive weekly inflow in seven weeks, according to a report by Elara Capital.

The inflow follows cumulative outflows of nearly $5 billion over the previous six weeks, signalling a gradual easing of selling pressure from India-focused funds. Weekly outflows also dropped sharply from a peak of $1.2 billion to around $180 million, reflecting improving investor sentiment.

Exchange-traded funds (ETFs) played a key role in the recovery, attracting inflows of $220 million during the week. However, long-only funds continued to experience outflows of approximately $400 million, indicating that some investors remain cautious.A notable turnaround was seen in US-domiciled funds, which recorded inflows of $225 million after witnessing seven consecutive weeks of outflows totalling $3.3 billion. Despite this improvement, India-dedicated strategies have still reported outflows for nine straight weeks, highlighting mixed trends in investor behaviour.

Globally, liquidity conditions remained supportive for the fourth consecutive week. US equity funds saw strong inflows ranging between $10 billion and $22 billion weekly over the past month, while global funds attracted about $16 billion. Emerging market funds also continued to draw steady inflows.In contrast, Europe and China experienced continued outflows over the past five weeks, underscoring regional divergence. Commodity-related equity flows softened, with energy outflows moderating and gold inflows stabilising, while silver flows remained weak.

India saw $106 million inflow after seven weeks, Elara Capital report says, signalling easing outflows and improving investor sentiment globally

Key Highlights

- $106 million inflow after seven weeks
- ETFs lead recovery with $220 million
- US funds return with strong inflows
- Global liquidity remains supportive
- Europe, China continue facing outflows

Axis Bank Q4 profit dips slightly, NII rises

MUMBAI

Axis Bank reported a marginal decline in net profit for the fourth quarter of FY26, even as its core income showed steady growth. The lender posted a net profit of Rs 7,071 crore, down 0.64 per cent year-on-year from Rs 7,118 crore in the same period last year.Despite the slight dip in profitability, the bank's interest income increased 4.7% to Rs 32,724 crore. However, this was offset by a similar rise in interest expenses, which climbed to Rs 18,267 crore, reflecting higher funding costs during the quarter.

Net Interest Income (NII), a key indicator of a bank's core earnings, rose 5% year-on-year to Rs 14,457 crore. Meanwhile, the Net Interest Margin (NIM) stood at 3.62%, indicating stable lending profitability amid changing rate conditions.On the operational side, Axis Bank reported an operating profit of Rs 10,013 crore, while its core operating profit came in slightly higher at Rs 10,619 crore. Operating expenses rose 6 per cent year-on-year, suggesting continued investments in technology, expansion, and infrastructure.

On a sequential basis, the bank showed improved performance. Profit after tax (PAT) increased 9 per cent compared to Rs 6,490 crore.

FIIs sell, DIIs support Indian equities strongly

NEW DELHI

Institutional flows in Indian equities are being largely driven by global developments, with geopolitical tensions and central bank decisions influencing market sentiment, according to market experts.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) remained net sellers in the latest week, offloading Indian equities worth around ₹171.4 billion, based on provisional exchange data. Selling pressure persisted throughout the week and intensified in the latter half, reflecting caution over global uncertainty.

In contrast, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) continued to provide strong support to the market. DIIs emerged as net buyers, investing about ₹97.8 billion during the same period, helping cushion overall market volatility.

The trend has remained consistent for several months.

FIIs have been net sellers for 10 consecutive months in April so far, pulling out nearly ₹563.6 billion from Indian equities. Meanwhile, DIIs have infused around ₹394.8 billion in the same period, highlighting steady domestic participation.

Govt launches apps for drug control, rehab

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on Saturday launched two upgraded mobile applications aimed at strengthening India's drug control and beggary rehabilitation programmes through improved digital monitoring and coordination.Unveiled at a Chintan Shivir in Chandigarh, the applications — Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan 2.0 App and SMILE–Beggary Survey Mobile Application — are designed to enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency in implementation across the country.The NMBA 2.0 App acts as a centralised digital platform that enables real-time reporting and monitoring of anti-drug initiatives at national, state, district, and institutional levels. It allows authorised users, including government agencies and partner organisations, to upload and track programme activities through a unified dashboard.

The application also functions as a resource hub, offering Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials to support awareness campaigns. It facilitates onboarding and management of volunteers, known as Nasha Mukti Mitras, and enables institutions to organise outreach activities such as pledge-taking drives.Additionally, the app provides access to important helplines, including de-addiction and mental health support services, helping individuals seek timely assistance.The SMILE–Beggary Survey Mobile Application focuses on strengthening field-level implementation by enabling digital data collection for beggary surveys.

Nirmala Sitharaman urged simpler, unified KYC norms across financial system, reducing duplication and improving user convenience nationwide

FM calls for unified KYC system across financial sector

MUMBAI

Nirmala Sitharaman has called for simplifying and standardising Know Your Customer (KYC) processes across India's financial system, urging Securities and Exchange Board of India to take the lead.Speaking at SEBI's 38th foundation day event in Mumbai, she said the current KYC system puts unnecessary pressure on citizens, who must repeatedly complete the same verification across multiple platforms.

She stressed the need for a seamless, secure, and portable KYC framework that works across institutions without duplication.The minister called for better coordination between SEBI and bodies like the Financial Stability and Development Council to build a unified system. Her goal is to ensure that individuals can complete KYC once and use it across the entire financial ecosystem.

Sitharaman also highlighted the need for regulators to shift from a reactive approach to an anticipatory one, especially as risks evolve. She pointed to challenges such as AI-driven market manipulation, cross-border financial fraud, and increasing cybersecurity threats.

In addition, she suggested moving away from overly rigid rules toward principles-based regulation. This approach, combined with structured public consultation, can help create flexible policies that encourage innovation while protecting investors.

Separately, she noted that India's strong fiscal position and healthy foreign exchange reserves.

- Nirmala Sitharaman urges unified KYC system across sectors
- Securities and Exchange Board of India to lead KYC simplification efforts
- Citizens face repeated KYC verification burden
- Call for secure, portable KYC framework
- Reserve Bank of India gets policy flexibility boost

INDIA REAL ESTATE DEMAND STEADY DESPITE SLOWER LAUNCHES

NEW DELHI

India's real estate sector maintained stable demand in the first quarter of 2026 despite a slowdown in new project launches, according to a report by Equirus. The findings highlight the sector's resilience even as developers adopted a cautious approach toward fresh supply.

The report noted that while fewer new projects were introduced during the quarter, buyer interest remained strong across key markets.

This indicates that underlying demand fundamentals continue to be robust, supported by steady economic conditions and sustained end-user interest.

A major factor behind the launch slowdown is the more measured strategy adopted by developers. Instead of aggressively expanding supply, many are focusing on clearing existing inventory and ensuring better project execution. This cautious stance reflects a shift toward disciplined growth rather than rapid expansion.

At the same time, demand is being driven by both residential and commercial segments. Housing demand remains supported by rising incomes, urbanisation, and relatively stable interest rates. Commercial real estate, particularly office and retail assets, is also seeing consistent traction due to stable cash flows and investor confidence.

The report also aligns with broader industry trends, where activity levels remain healthy even if the value of transactions or new launches fluctuates. Recent data shows that deal volumes in the sector have stayed steady, with a tilt toward mid-sized transactions rather than large-ticket investments. Overall, the outlook for India's real estate sector remains positive.

While supply growth may be calibrated in the near term, sustained demand and strong fundamentals are expected to support continued stability in the market.

DOMESTIC DEMAND

India CV volumes to hit 12.4 lakh by FY27

NEW DELHI

India's commercial vehicle (CV) industry is projected to reach a record 12.4 lakh units in FY27, surpassing its previous peak, according to a report by Crisil.

The growth comes after a strong recovery phase, with CV volumes rebounding sharply in FY26. However, the pace of expansion is expected to moderate to around 5–6% in FY27 due to a higher base and normalising demand conditions.

Domestic demand is expected to remain the key driver, supported by ongoing infrastructure development, freight movement, replacement demand, and improved vehicle affordability following earlier tax rationalisation measures. The domestic market accounts for the majority of total CV sales in India.

Within the segment, light commercial vehicles (LCVs) are projected to grow steadily, driven by e-commerce, logistics, and last-mile delivery needs.

Medium and heavy commercial vehicles (M&HCVs) are expected to see stable growth supported by construction, mining, and freight activity. Bus sales are also likely to expand moderately due to replacement demand and government-led fleet upgrades.

Kings Rewrite History: Record Chase Stuns Delhi

Punjab Kings stunned Delhi Capitals, chasing a record 265 with fearless batting, led by Prabhsimran Singh and Shreyas Iyer

NEW DELHI

In a night of pure cricketing carnage at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, Punjab Kings (PBKS) pulled off the impossible. They chased down a record-shattering target of 265 to defeat Delhi Capitals (DC) by six wickets, proving that in the modern T20 era, no total is truly safe.

The chase began with an absolute hurricane. Openers Prabhsimran Singh and Priyansh Arya dismantled the Delhi bowling attack, racing to 116 runs within the first six overs. Prabhsimran was the chief aggressor, punishing the bowlers for 76 runs off a mere 26 deliveries. Arya played his part perfectly with a brisk 43, ensuring the required run rate remained manageable from the start.

Although spin wizard Kuldeep Yadav struck twice to apply the brakes, PBKS captain Shreyas Iyer remained unfazed. Iyer played a masterfully paced innings, finishing unbeaten on 71 from 36 balls to guide his team home with seven balls to spare.

Earlier, the crowd witnessed a masterclass from DC's KL Rahul. He smashed an unbeaten 152—the highest score ever by an Indian in the IPL—propelling Delhi to a massive 264/2. However, his historic feat was overshadowed by Punjab's relentless aggression.

The high-octane clash took a somber turn when Delhi's Lungi Ngidi was stretchered off following a head injury while fielding. Despite the concern, the game concluded with PBKS celebrating a historic milestone. This victory cements Punjab's reputation as the most fearless batting unit in the 2026 season.

IPL 2026

KL RAHUL shatters records with historic century

NEW DELHI

The Arun Jaitley Stadium witnessed a masterclass in power hitting as KL Rahul etched his name into the history books. The Delhi Capitals opener played a marathon innings, scoring an unbeaten 152 against the Punjab Kings. This remarkable feat makes him only the third player in IPL history to cross the 150-run mark, joining legends Chris Gayle and Brendon McCullum in an elite club. Rahul's explosive knock came off just 67 balls, featuring 16 boundaries and nine towering sixes. By reaching his century in 47 deliveries, he also claimed the record for the fastest hundred ever scored by a Delhi Capitals player. Beyond team records, Rahul now holds the highest individual score by an Indian in the IPL, surpassing Abhishek Sharma's previous best of 141.

The crowd was treated to a fireworks display as Rahul combined with Nitish Rana for a massive 220-run partnership. While the Punjab bowlers struggled to find answers, Rahul moved past MS Dhoni to become the fifth-highest run-getter in the tournament's history. He also reclaimed the Orange Cap, cementing his dominance in the 2026 season.

This innings was particularly special as Rahul became the first player to score multiple centuries for three different IPL franchises. His performance propelled Delhi to a daunting total of 264 runs. For the home fans, it wasn't just a win in the making; it was a historic moment where "KLass" met raw power to redefine what is possible in T20 cricket.

Virat Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal powered Royal Challengers Bengaluru to a stunning victory, chasing 206 against Gujarat Titans

Kohli and Padikkal lead RCB to victory

BENGALURU

The M. Chinnaswamy Stadium erupted in joy as Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) pulled off a stunning five-wicket win against the Gujarat Titans. In a high-stakes chase of 206 runs, the home team proved their mettle, finishing the game with seven balls to spare. This victory propels RCB to the second spot in the IPL 2026 points table, marking their fifth win of the season.

The hero of the night was Virat Kohli, who played a masterclass innings of 81 runs off just 44 balls. He was perfectly supported by Devdutt Padikkal, who smashed a quick-fire 55. Together, they built a massive 115-run partnership that silenced the Gujarat bowlers and kept the run rate under control. Despite a mid-game wobble where RCB lost a few quick wickets to Rashid Khan, Krunal Pandya stepped up as the finisher, scoring an unbeaten 23 to seal the win.

Earlier in the evening, Gujarat Titans put up a formidable total of 205, powered by a brilliant century from opener Sai Sudharsan. Sudharsan's 100 came off 58 balls, featuring 11 fours and five huge sixes. While the Titans looked set for an easy win at the halfway mark, RCB's bowlers, led by Josh Hazlewood, managed to slow the scoring in the final overs. With 10 points now in their bag, RCB is looking like a serious title contender. For the fans in Bengaluru, it was a night of classic cricket, proving that no target is too high when Kohli is in form.

RCB makes history with record run chase

BENGALURU

Royal Challengers Bengaluru continued their reputation as chase specialists with a thrilling win over Gujarat Titans at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. Chasing a daunting 206, RCB delivered a composed and fearless batting performance to secure victory with more than an over remaining.

The standout performer was Virat Kohli, who anchored the innings with a superb 81. He was well-supported by Devdutt Padikkal, whose quick half-century kept the momentum alive. Despite late wickets adding tension, Krunal Pandya held his nerve to guide the team home.

With this win, RCB reached the milestone of 50 victories at a single venue, joining elite teams like Mumbai and Chennai. It also marked their fifth successful chase above 200, underlining their batting strength.

SHUBMAN GILL LAMENTS COSTLY BATTING SLUMP LATE

BENGALURU

Gujarat Titans captain Shubman Gill expressed disappointment following his team's five-wicket defeat to Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Despite a massive century from Sai Sudharsan, the Titans failed to defend their total, leaving Gill to reflect on a critical loss of momentum during the final stages of their innings.

Speaking after the high-scoring thriller, Gill pointed to a strange boundary drought between the 16th and 19th overs as the turning point. At one stage, the Titans looked on track to score over 230 runs, but RCB's bowlers, led by Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, tightened the screws. The Titans went 18 balls without a single boundary during the death overs, finishing at 205, a score Gill admitted was well below what they had hoped for.

The captain also highlighted a massive "what-if" moment early in the second innings. Legendary batter Virat Kohli was dropped on zero before going on to smash a match-winning 81. Gill admitted that while dropped catches are part of the game, failing to take wickets in the middle overs allowed Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal to take the game away with a 115-run partnership. "We had our moments, but we weren't consistent," Gill remarked, praising RCB for their clinical middle-order batting. With this loss, the Titans face a tougher climb in the IPL 2026 standings, while RCB celebrates moving into second place. For Gill, the lesson is clear, in high-stakes T20 cricket, every quiet over and dropped chance carries a heavy price.

Mitchell Starc returns to bolster DC

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Capitals received a massive shot of adrenaline as Australian pace spearhead Mitchell Starc officially joined the team camp. After a frustrating period on the sidelines due to injury, the legendary left-armer's arrival was confirmed by the franchise via social media. His return comes at a critical juncture for Delhi, who are currently fighting to climb from sixth place in the league standings.

Starc has been out of action since late January following an grueling season. The 36-year-old was the standout performer in the Ashes, where he was named Player of the Series for his incredible 31-wicket haul. However, the heavy workload took its toll, resulting in painful shoulder and elbow issues. A fall while attempting a catch during the Big Bash League further delayed his recovery, forcing him to miss the opening stages of this IPL campaign.

While fans are eager to see him back in action, the Capitals are being cautious with their star asset. Starc is expected to sit out today's high-stakes clash against the unbeaten Punjab Kings at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. Instead, the medical team is targeting a potential return for the match against the Rajasthan Royals on May 1.

Having a bowler of Starc's caliber back in the locker room provides a significant psychological boost for the squad. As the race for the playoffs intensifies, his ability to swing the ball and deliver lethal yorkers could be the missing piece Delhi needs to turn their season around.

Arshdeep Singh wins hearts of young fans

CHANDIGARH

In a heartwarming break from the intense pressure of the IPL season, Punjab Kings star bowler Arshdeep Singh spent his time bringing smiles to local children. The Indian international seamer met with a group of young fans from a local NGO as part of the team's new social media initiative, "The Real Kings." The meeting gave the children a rare chance to sit down with their hero and ask anything they wanted.

Arshdeep, known for his lethal yorkers on the pitch and his cheerful personality off it, handled the kids' unfiltered questions with humor and honesty. From light-hearted jokes to sincere advice about following dreams, the left-arm pacer proved why he is considered one of the most relatable figures in Indian cricket. The session was supported by the NamMyoho Daan and Phool Versha Foundations, which use sports to help build confidence in children from underprivileged backgrounds.

For the young fans, it was a day they will never forget. For Arshdeep, it was a moment to connect with the community before heading back to the grind of professional cricket. The franchise plans to feature more players in similar sessions throughout the season to strengthen the bond between the team and its supporters.

While his off-field interaction was gentle, Arshdeep will need to find his competitive edge quickly. The team is looking to maintain their impressive unbeaten away record as the race for the playoffs heats up.

Nitish Rana shines as Delhi Capitals make history

NEW DELHI

Nitish Rana had a night to remember, crossing the prestigious 3,000-run mark in the Indian Premier League. Playing for the Delhi Capitals, Rana delivered a stunning performance against the Punjab Kings, scoring a career-best 91 runs. His explosive innings came off just 44 balls, featuring eleven crisp boundaries and four towering sixes that left the crowd in awe.

Rana entered the game needing only 70 runs to reach the milestone. By the time he was finished, he had pushed his career total to 3,021 runs. However, his personal achievement was only half the story. Rana teamed up with captain KL Rahul for a massive 220-run partnership. This incredible stand is now the second-highest in IPL history, falling just short of the legendary 229-run record set by Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers back in 2016.

The pair's dominance helped Delhi Capitals post a staggering 264/2, the highest team total of the 2026 season so far. While Rahul anchored the innings with a brilliant 152, Rana provided the fire, at one point smashing 28 runs in a single over.

Punjab Kings struggled to find answers as their bowlers were dismantled across the field. Despite a late dismissal, Rana walked off to a standing ovation, having secured his place among the league's elite run-scorers. It was a masterclass in aggressive batting that proved exactly why he remains one of the most dangerous players in the shortest format of the game.

Mumbai cricket league announces star retention list

MUMBAI

The Mumbai Cricket Association has officially unveiled the player retention list for the 2026 T20 Mumbai League, featuring some of the biggest names in Indian cricket. Leading the pack are international stars Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, and Shivam Dube, ensuring the upcoming fourth season will be a high-voltage affair.

Each of the eight franchises has retained a core of three players, balancing world-class experience with promising local talent. The Triumph Knights have held onto Suryakumar Yadav as their "Icon Player" following his success leading India to a world title. Meanwhile, other teams have secured heavy hitters like Shardul Thakur, Sarfaraz Khan, and Tushar Deshpande. Young stars Yashasvi Jaiswal and Ajinkya Rahane have also been assigned as Icon Players for their respective franchises.

MCA President Ajinkya Naik stated that these retentions prove the league's growing credibility. He noted that allowing young athletes to share a dressing room with global icons is vital for the development of Mumbai's domestic cricket. The league has historically been a successful scouting ground for the IPL and the national team.

With the core squads now locked in, the excitement moves to the upcoming player auction. Franchises will look to fill their remaining spots to challenge the defending champions, Mumbai South Central Maratha Royals. As the city gears up for another summer of cricket, fans are eager to see if this mix of seasoned veterans and fresh faces can raise the standard of the local game to new heights.

FC GOA BEATS NORTHEAST UNITED TO REACH SECOND

FC Goa climbed to second in the ISL standings following a clinical 2-0 victory against struggling NorthEast United FC

GUWAHATI

FC Goa continued their impressive climb up the Indian Super League table with a clinical 2-0 win over NorthEast United FC. The victory, fueled by goals in each half, moved the "Gaurs" into second place with 19 points, while NorthEast United remains stuck near the bottom in 12th.

The match began with energy from both sides, but FC Goa struck first in the 20th minute. Young talent Muhammed Nemil sent a clever, high pass to winger Dejan Drazic. Drazic showed great strength to hold off a defender before firing a sharp shot into the bottom corner. Although Drazic had to leave the game shortly after due to an injury, his goal set the tone for the visitors.

Throughout the contest, Goa's defense was the star of the show. Captain Sandesh Jhingan delivered a masterclass in the backline, making several key interceptions that frustrated the NorthEast attackers. For his commanding performance, Jhingan was named Player of the Match. While the "Highlanders" tried to find an equalizer through players like Jithin MS and Parthib Gogoi, they simply could not break through Goa's disciplined wall.

The result was finally put beyond doubt in stoppage time. Substitute Mohammed Yasir received a cross on the right side, took a calm touch, and curled a beautiful left-footed strike off the post and into the net. It was a professional performance from FC Goa, who now look like genuine title contenders as the season progresses toward its final stages.

Autism center champions inclusion with sports event

NEW DELHI

India Autism Center's "Sports for All" initiative celebrated neurodivergent athletes and record-breaking young swimmers, advocating for inclusive infrastructure to empower children with autism through sports.

To celebrate World Autism Awareness Month, the India Autism Center (IAC) hosted its "Sports for All" initiative. The event focused on creating a fair sporting world for everyone, bringing together athletes, policymakers, and experts to discuss how to make sports more accessible for people with neurodevelopmental conditions.

A major highlight was the celebration of four young swimmers like Meka Sri Ashvath, Gunturu Lav, Gunturu Kush, and Thanvesh Navin. These incredible athletes, aged between 9 and 11, recently completed a massive 60-kilometer relay swim across the Palk Strait. They traveled from India to Sri Lanka and back in just 18 hours. Their achievement serves as a powerful example of what children with autism can accomplish when given the right training and support.

The program featured deep discussions on how to change the current sports system. Experts emphasized that inclusion shouldn't just be a one-time effort but should be built into the very design of India's stadiums and training programs. Leaders from Special Olympics Bharat and the Nipman Foundation noted that sports are vital for building confidence and a sense of belonging.

The IAC also shared its long-term vision, called "Samaavesh," which aims to create India's largest residential community for lifelong care. By partnering with various organizations, the Center hopes to remove the barriers that stop talented athletes from participating in mainstream sports. The message of the day was clear, with the right encouragement, every individual has the potential to redefine what is possible.

Ugandan stars chase double victory in Bengaluru

BENGALURU

The streets of Bengaluru were sizzling as the 18th TCS World 10K kicked off. All eyes are on Ugandan stars Sarah Chelangat and Harbert Kibet, who are aiming for a historic "Ugandan double" victory. Sarah, the defending champion, enters the race with newfound confidence. Despite winning last year with a back injury, she declared herself fully fit and ready to shatter her own record to retain the crown.

Her teammate, Harbert Kibet, brings a remarkable backstory to the starting line. Growing up, Kibet developed world-class endurance by running 20 kilometers daily to school with a heavy backpack. This year, he clocked a blistering 26:39 in Spain, a time nearly a minute faster than the current Bengaluru course record. Kibet is the heavy favorite for the men's title, though he faces stiff competition from Burundi's Rodrigue Kwizera and Ethiopia's Gemechu Dida.

The women's race is equally competitive. Sarah outran Kenyan Brenda Jepchirchir, who recently posted a career-best 29:25 in Valencia, and Ethiopia's Fantaye Belayneh. While some athletes expressed concerns over the local heat, most remain optimistic that the early morning start will provide the perfect conditions for record-breaking performances.

Beyond the prize money, these elite runners are using Bengaluru as a springboard for the upcoming Commonwealth Games and the LA Olympics. With a field this deep in talent, fans can expect a thrilling finish at the finish line of this World Athletics Gold Label race.

Injury scare for Mbappe during Madrid draw

SEVILLE

Real Madrid faced a double blow as they lost two vital points and their star striker to injury. During a tense 1-1 draw against Real Betis, Kylian Mbappe was forced off the pitch after feeling sudden pain. The French superstar requested a substitution in the 81st minute, heading straight to the locker room for medical attention.

The timing could not be worse for the Spanish giants. Early reports suggest Mbappe has strained his left hamstring. This injury puts a massive cloud over Madrid's upcoming schedule, especially with the highly anticipated El Clasico against Barcelona just around the corner. Coach Alvaro Arbeloa admitted after the game that the team is unsure how long their top scorer will be sidelined, noting they must wait for more tests.

The match itself was a rollercoaster of emotions for fans. Vinicius Junior put Madrid ahead early, scoring a beautiful goal in the 17th minute. It looked like a routine victory until the very last moment. In the 94th minute, Hector Bellerin stunned the visitors with a dramatic equalizer, leaving Madrid eight points behind league leaders Barcelona.

Losing Mbappe is a heartbreaking prospect for both club and country. He has been in sensational form, netting 24 goals this season. With the FIFA World Cup starting in June, France supporters are also holding their breath. For now, Madrid must find a way to keep their title hopes alive without their main man as they prepare for next week's clash.

New league gives small town cricketers hope

NEW DELHI

The newly launched Beyond Reach Premier League (BRPL) is stepping up to change the game for aspiring cricketers in rural India. Co-founder and CEO Sushil Sharma announced that the league's primary goal is to provide a professional platform for talent hidden in small towns. This initiative aims to bridge the gap between raw passion and structured career opportunities, ensuring that geography never limits a player's potential.

The inspiration for BRPL stems from Sharma's own childhood. Growing up playing tennis-ball cricket on crowded streets, he felt the same hunger and drive as millions of young Indians. However, he noticed a critical lack of direction and visibility for players outside major cities. "Dreams need direction," Sharma noted, explaining that the league was born from a personal promise to create the platform he never had.

BRPL focuses on the untapped potential of tennis-ball cricket, a format loved at the grassroots level but rarely treated professionally. By offering world-class training, digital visibility, and expert coaching, the league hopes to empower the next generation of champions. It isn't just about the scorecards, the league aims to build confidence, discipline, and a sense of identity among its participants.

The league is open to aspiring and semi-professional players aged 18 to 40.

Sawan Barwal smashes record and eyes Olympics

NEW DELHI

India's marathon scene has a new hero in Sawan Barwal. The 28-year-old runner from Himachal Pradesh recently made history at the Rotterdam Marathon by clocking a time of 2:11:58. This remarkable feat officially ended a 48-year wait, breaking the national record held by Shivnath Singh since 1978. Now, Barwal has his sights set on representing India at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics.

The journey to the record was anything but easy. Barwal, who transitioned from shorter distances like the 1,500m, admitted the final stretch in Rotterdam was a grueling mental and physical battle. Battling cold winds and dizziness, he pushed through the pain to cross the finish line. He confessed that he wasn't even thinking about the record during the race; his primary goal was simply to finish the exhausting 42-kilometer course.

Barwal credits his success to a gradual shift toward endurance training and better modern facilities. He noted that while Singh's 1978 record was far ahead of its time, today's athletes benefit from scientific coaching and international exposure. This combination allowed him to turn his patience and rhythm into a historic performance for Indian athletics.

Looking ahead, Barwal is focused on consistency. His roadmap includes competing in the Asian Games and various international races to sharpen his skills. By breaking a nearly five-decade-old barrier, he hopes to inspire a new generation of Indian runners to believe that global success is within their reach. For Barwal, this record is just the beginning.

India loses Olympic hockey legend Gurbax Singh

NEW DELHI

The passing of Gurbax Singh Grewal marks the end of an important chapter in Indian hockey history. A key member of the team that secured bronze at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics, he represented a generation that kept India competitive on the global stage.

One of the most remarkable aspects of his career was sharing the Olympic field with his brother, Balbir Singh Grewal—a rare and historic moment for Indian hockey. Beyond his playing days, Grewal's continued involvement at the grassroots level, especially in Mumbai, showed a deep commitment to nurturing future talent.

Tributes from figures like Dilip Tirkey underline how much he meant to the sport—not just as a player, but as a mentor and administrator. His legacy isn't limited to medals; it lives on in the players he guided and the systems he helped strengthen.

Sathiyan and Manika retained for UTT season

NEW DELHI

The stage is set for the seventh season of Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) as franchises announced their key retentions ahead of the upcoming auction. Indian legends Sathiyan Gnanasekaran and Manika Batra have been officially retained, anchoring their respective teams for the new season. While these icons stay put, several other top stars, including Manav Thakkar and Diya Chitale, are returning to the player pool, sparking excitement for a high-stakes auction in Mumbai.

Sathiyan Gnanasekaran continues his historic streak with Dabang Delhi TTC, marking his seventh consecutive season with the franchise. Meanwhile, Manika Batra returns to the league with the Ahmedabad APL Pipers after missing the previous edition due to injury. Their presence ensures a strong veteran core for the tournament, which is scheduled to run from July 9 to July 26 in Goa.

The auction pool is particularly deep this year, featuring world number five doubles pair Manav Thakkar and Manush Shah. They are joined by Diya Chitale, who was the most expensive pick in the previous auction. These players return after a successful stint on the international circuit, making them highly sought-after targets for teams looking to bolster their rosters.

With a total purse of one crore tokens per team, the auction on April 28 will be a strategic battleground. From emerging domestic prodigies like Divyanshi Bhowmick to seasoned international stars from France and Wales, the talent pool is more diverse than ever. As the league expands, fans are eager to see which teams will find the perfect balance to claim the title.

Bengaluru workshop to boost race measurement accuracy

BENGALURU

Bengaluru recently hosted a transformative five-day workshop aimed at elevating the technical standards of road racing across India. Organized by the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS) and World Athletics, the event focused on the precise science of course measurement. Fourteen specialized participants from across the nation gathered to master globally recognized protocols, ensuring that Indian race distances are accurate, credible, and compliant with international benchmarks.

The significance of this training cannot be overstated for India's rapidly expanding running culture. Currently, the country only has three certified course measurers. This shortage makes it difficult for new world records set on Indian soil to be officially ratified.

By training a new cohort of experts, the workshop ensures that athlete performances and qualifications for global competitions are upheld by the highest authorities in the sport.

Leading the sessions was legendary marathoner Hugh Jones, a former London Marathon winner and the secretary of AIMS. Jones emphasized that accurate measurement is the foundation of the sport's integrity. Participants engaged in hands-on exercises, including bicycle calibration and the use of "Jones Counters" to map out exact distances.

With nearly 1,100 timed races now held annually in India, building this technical expertise is essential. Local organizers believe this initiative will turn India into a top destination for international runners who seek certified and trustworthy courses. Supported by various athletic associations and tourism boards, the workshop marks a major leap toward aligning Indian distance running with the world's best practices.

ALLU ARJUN spotted watching new Hollywood biopic

HYDERABAD

Movie fans are buzzing after photos of Icon Star Allu Arjun sitting in a local cinema went viral. The actor, famous for his role in Pushpa, was seen wearing a crisp white outfit while sitting in the back row of a theater. Reports suggest he was there to watch Michael, the new Hollywood movie about the King of Pop.

The photos supposedly show the star taking a quick break from filming his upcoming project, Raaka. Fans were thrilled to see their favorite hero enjoying a movie just like everyone else. However, the internet is now divided over whether these pictures are actually real. Some people think the images might be created by AI or taken from an old event, as no official team has confirmed the visit yet.

This mystery has reignited a massive rumor from two years ago. Back in 2024, whispers spread that director Sandeep Reddy Vanga wanted Allu Arjun to play Michael Jackson in a big Telugu film.

Intense Maarige Daari teaser grips film fans

BENGALURU

A powerful new cinematic storm is brewing in the Kannada film industry. The ninety-second teaser for the upcoming movie Maarige Daari was released on the eve of legendary actor Dr. Rajkumar's birthday, instantly capturing the hearts of thousands. Within just a few hours of its debut, the gritty footage went viral, sparking massive curiosity among moviegoers.

Agastya, a talented filmmaker from Bengaluru, wears multiple hats for this project. Not only has he written the story, screenplay, and dialogues, but he also directs the film and stars as the lead hero. Produced by Radha under the Radha Films banner, with support from businessmen Chetan Chandra and Satish Krishna Shetty, the project is a collaborative labor of love.

Describing the film's unique vibe, Agastya called it a "cult classic" filled with raw, emotional elements. He has intentionally kept the plot details under wraps to maintain a sense of mystery, promising fans that more secrets will be revealed in stages. Popular actress Mahalakshmi, currently a household name through the serial Lakshmi Nivas, plays the leading lady alongside a talented supporting cast including Cockroach Sudhi and Balrajawadi.

The film's visual journey spans stunning locations from the spiritual banks of Varanasi to the lush landscapes of Chikkamagaluru and Mysore. With soulful music by Riyo Antony and sharp stunts by SYC Suri, the production is now heading toward the censor board. As the buzz grows, Maarige Daari is quickly becoming the film to watch this season.

Arjun Sarja's new movie officially titled blast

CHENNAI

The wait is over for Tamil cinema fans as the makers of the highly anticipated project, previously known only as AGS28, have finally revealed its official name. The upcoming family entertainer, starring "Action King" Arjun Sarja, Priety Mukhundhan, and Abhirami, has been titled Blast. Production house AGS Entertainment shared the news on social media, promising that the film will hit theaters very soon.

Excitement for the movie has been building since February, when the team announced they had finished filming. A heartwarming video from the set showed the cast and crew celebrating the wrap-up with cake and smiles. This project is particularly special because it marks the Tamil debut of music director Ravi Basrur, the man behind the powerful sounds of the blockbuster KGF series.

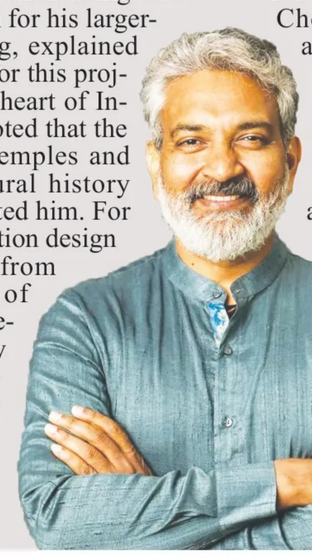
The film is directed by Subhash K. Raj, a rising talent who previously worked under hitmaker Pradeep Ranganathan. Sources close to the production describe Blast as a wholesome story meant for the entire family to enjoy together.

Rajamouli promises epic journey with new film

BENGALURU

Legendary filmmaker S.S. Rajamouli has sent waves of excitement through the global film community by declaring his upcoming project, Varanasi, as his most ambitious work to date. Speaking at the CCXP Mexico 2026 event, the visionary director shared his grand dreams for the film, which features South Indian superstar Mahesh Babu in the leading role.

Rajamouli, known for his larger-than-life storytelling, explained that his inspiration for this project comes from the heart of India's heritage. He noted that the country's ancient temples and stunning architectural history have always fascinated him. For Varanasi, the production design will draw heavily from the majestic aura of Kasi, aiming to recreate the timeless glory of India's rich temple structures on the silver screen. Fans can expect breathtaking palace sequences and a visual style that celebrates the nation's artistic soul.



The film boasts a truly international appeal with a stellar cast. Global star Priyanka Chopra joins as the female lead, while the versatile Prithviraj Sukumaran will take on the role of the powerful antagonist. The project is being produced by KL Narayana under the Sri Durga Arts banner, with the legendary MM Keeravani composing the musical score.

As the countdown begins for the worldwide release on April 7, 2027, the anticipation is sky-high. Varanasi is shaping up to be more than just a movie, it is an epic celebration of Indian culture. For fans of cinema, Rajamouli's latest dream promises a journey like no other.

Dhruva Sarja movie trailer deleted from YouTube

BENGALURU

The makers of the highly anticipated film KD: The Devil have stunned fans by pulling the movie's trailer from YouTube just after its big release. KVN Productions issued a formal apology, explaining that the video was taken down because it accidentally included "uncertified content." This mistake has sparked a wave of frustration online, as this is not the first time the film has faced legal or censorship hurdles.

Only a few weeks ago, a song from the movie featuring Nora Fatehi and Sanjay Dutt was removed following a massive public outcry. Critics and the National Commission for Women labeled the lyrics "vulgar" and "suggestive." While Nora Fatehi claimed she did not understand the meaning of the words while filming, the production team was forced to re-record the track with cleaner lyrics.

The internet has not been kind to the production house, which is also behind other troubled projects like Toxic and Jana Nayagan. Angry fans on social media have called the situation a "joke," questioning how a major studio could repeatedly fail to follow basic certification rules. Some worry that these constant delays and controversies might hurt the film's success at the box office.

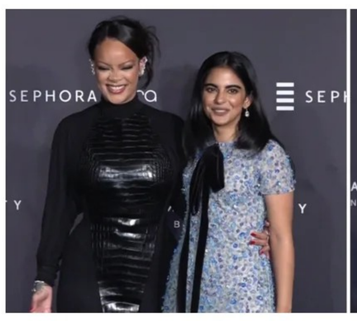
Despite the backlash, the producers have promised to upload a revised, "clean" version of the trailer very soon.

Marvel fans anticipate new Avengers movie trailer

MEXICO CITY

The wait for the most ambitious superhero movie in history might almost be over. After seven long years, fans are desperate to see Earth's Mightiest Heroes reunite on the big screen in Avengers: Doomsday. While short teasers have already racked up a billion views online, a full official trailer has remained a mystery, until now. New clues suggest that Marvel is preparing to drop the big reveal very soon. Excitement reached a boiling point this weekend as the Comic-Con Experience in Mexico kicked off. Marvel's official social media accounts have been dropping subtle hints, and giant displays for the film have already been spotted at the event.

Rihanna joins Isha Ambani for Mumbai Gala



MUMBAI

The city of dreams sparkled even brighter last night as global music sensation Rihanna arrived for a massive fashion celebration. The star was in town to launch her famous Fenty Beauty line, which is now officially hitting shelves in India. The glamorous party, held at the Phoenix Palladium, brought together the biggest names from both the business world and the silver screen. One of the most talked-about moments of the evening was when Rihanna posed for photos with Isha Ambani. Rihanna looked stunning in a sleek, glossy black gown, while Isha chose a delicate pastel blue dress covered in shimmering floral designs. The two appeared to be in great spirits, smiling for the cameras as they celebrated the brand's new partnership.

The red carpet was packed with style, but actor Janhvi Kapoor managed to steal the spotlight. She wore a bold black-and-white outfit that had everyone talking. Other famous guests, including designer Manish Malhotra and singer Kanika Kapoor, also joined the festivities, making it one of the most stylish nights Mumbai has seen this year. Rihanna is no stranger to India, having visited previously for the famous Ambani wedding celebrations. Her beauty brand has changed the industry by making makeup that works for every skin tone, and its arrival in local stores is a huge win for Indian fans. As the party stretched into the night, it was clear that the bond between global pop culture and Indian elegance is stronger than ever.

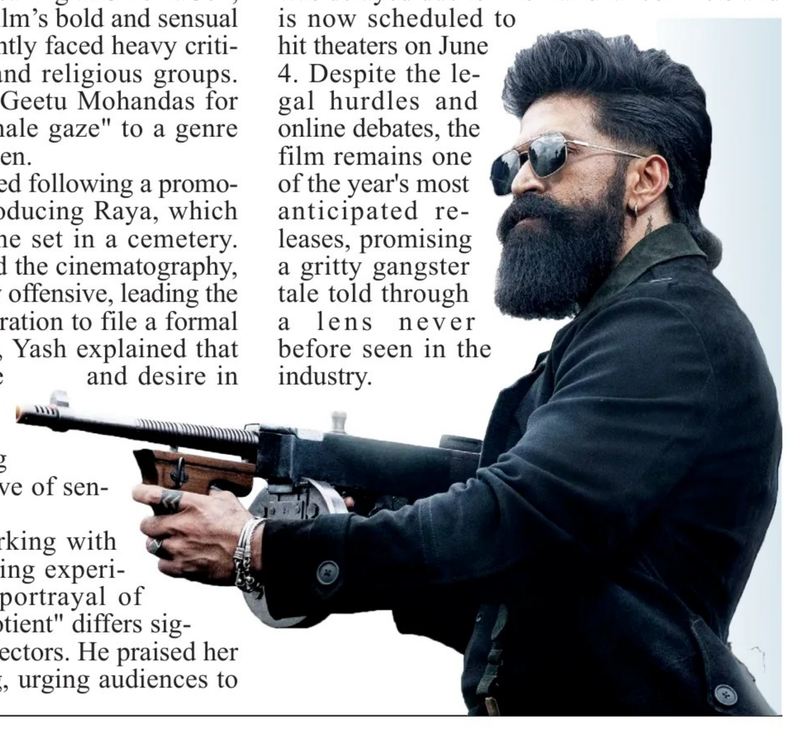
ROCKING STAR YASH defends bold scenes in action movie

LAS VEGAS

Kannada superstar Yash has finally broken his silence regarding the heated controversy surrounding his upcoming film, Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups. Speaking at CinemaCon, the actor defended the film's bold and sensual content, which has recently faced heavy criticism from the public and religious groups. Yash credited director Geetu Mohandas for bringing a unique "female gaze" to a genre usually dominated by men.

The backlash intensified following a promotional video titled Introducing Raya, which featured a graphic scene set in a cemetery. While some fans praised the cinematography, others found the imagery offensive, leading the National Christian Federation to file a formal complaint. In response, Yash explained that Geetu presents romance and desire in a way that is "refreshing and new" for Indian action cinema, focusing on a woman's perspective of sensuality.

Yash shared that working with Geetu has been a learning experience, noting that her portrayal of emotion and "desire quotient" differs significantly from male directors. He praised her clear vision and writing, urging audiences to see the artistry behind the provocativeness. Geetu herself recently posted a cryptic message online, suggesting the scenes explore deeper themes like female pleasure and consent. Originally set for a March release, Toxic was delayed due to international conflicts and is now scheduled to hit theaters on June 4. Despite the legal hurdles and online debates, the film remains one of the year's most anticipated releases, promising a gritty gangster tale told through a lens never before seen in the industry.



STELLAR CAST FAILS TO CREATE BIG HYPE

KOCHI

In a surprising turn for the South Indian film industry, the massive spy thriller Patriot is struggling to grab the public's attention despite its legendary cast.

The film marks a historic reunion between Malayalam superstars Mohanlal and Mammootty, who are sharing the screen after nearly two decades. Even with additional star power from Fahadh Faasil and Nayanthara, trade experts are shocked by the unusually low levels of excitement surrounding the project.

Built on a staggering budget of 140 crore, Patriot is one of the most expensive films ever made in the region.

Directed by the acclaimed Mahesh Narayanan, the movie was originally set for an April release but has now been pushed to May 1. While a big-budget film with such famous names usually creates a frenzy, the current buzz remains strangely quiet. Some fans have blamed a lack of promotion, while others feel the recent trailers revealed too much of the plot.

The film follows a high-stakes mission involving national security and covert operations, shot across multiple international locations like the UK and Azerbaijan.

Despite the slow start, industry insiders are not giving up hope.

City Hilights (English Daily) published by P. Sunil Kumar (Publisher) on behalf of Immaculate Broadcasting Consortium World News (P) Ltd., No. 18, JRV Court, Queens's Road, Bengaluru – 560001 and printed at Manipal Media Network Limited Opp. Govt School, Kempalinganahalli, Near Kunigal Cross, Nelamangala TQ, Bangalore Rural Dist. -562123, Printed at No-7/2 plot no.CA-3/1,28(p)&29(p) Kapanoor 2nd Stage Industrial Area Kapnoor Village Kalaburagi -585104. Printed at S. J. R. V. Printers, No. 208 Plot No. B-019 KSSIDC Industrial Area, Irfan Ahamed Khan Pathan, 4th Main Road Gamanagatti, Hubballi-Dharwad – 580025. and Elegant Offset Printers Pvt. Ltd. No. 5-61/1, Shed No. M-6, Yeyyadi Industrial Estate, Yeyyadi, Mangalore - 575 008. (RNI No: KARENG / 2015 / 63243), Regd. No. BGGPO-2581/2017-2019 Posted at Bengaluru PSO-560026 Email - cityhilights.news@gmail.com Phone: 080-41209042. Copyright. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited.